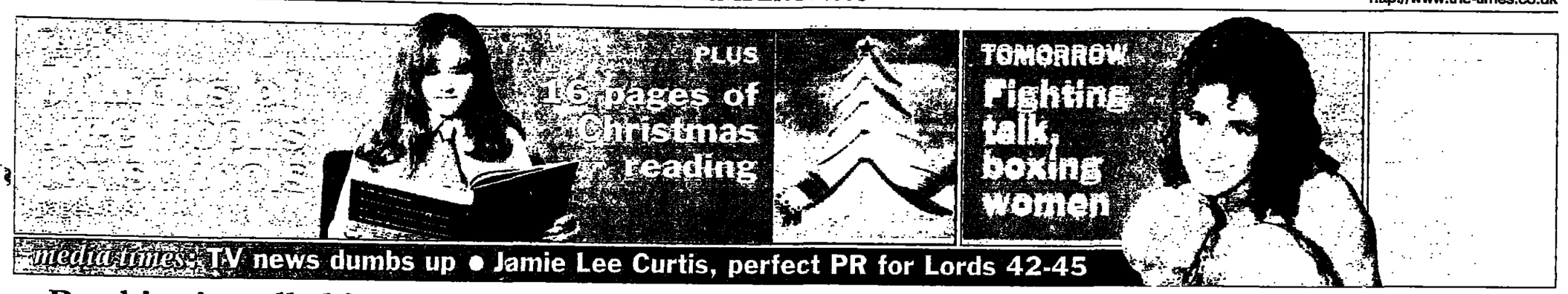
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THE TIMES

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media times: TV news dumbs up ● Jamie Lee Curtis, perfect PR for Lords 42-45

Psychiatrist called in to hospital

Pinochet to claim he is unfit for trial

BY JOANNA BALE

GENERAL Augusto Pinochet was assessed by a leading psychiatrist yesterday as his lawyers prepared a bid to persuade Jack Straw that he is mentally unfit to stand trial.

The former Chilean dictator is said to be suffering from a stress-related disorder which could give the Home Secretary legal grounds to refuse to extradite him to Spain.

He is under the care of the distinguished psychiatrist, Geoffrey Lloyd, the medical director of the Grovelands Priory Hospital, north London, where he has been recovering from spinal surgery for the past four weeks. A highly-placed medical source said yesterday: "He is undergoing assessment for stress and stress-related disorders. It is well-documented that elderly people frequently react badly to stress."

The general, 83, has surprised doctors by making an excellent recovery from spinal surgery. This would rule out an application that he is unfit to stand trial on physical grounds.

Wednesday's historic House of Lords ruling that the general's status as a former head of state does not protect him from prosecution for genocide is said to have plunged him into a deep depression at what he regards as an unjustified betrayal from a trusted ally. His supporters have long said that the general is too old and frail to stand trial, but they have not been aware of any psychiatric problems.



"Gone mad — get out of jail free"

Baroness Thatcher said after the ruling: "The senator is old, frail and sick, and on compassionate grounds alone should be allowed to return to Chile."

His lawyers privately acknowledge that their only realistic option of challenging the extradition is if the general is unfit to stand trial. Mr Straw has until Wednesday to make his decision whether to approve the extradition to Spain or allow General Pinochet to return to Chile. It is believed that he is applying for a seven-day extension.

A Home Office spokesman said yesterday: "Under the 1989 Extradition Act, the Home Secretary can refuse extradition on compassionate grounds if a person is considered unfit to stand trial for health reasons.

" Courts go to great lengths to establish someone's fitness to stand trial and it is down to the Home Secretary to interpret the evidence."

General Pinochet was originally under the care of his spinal surgeon, Farhad Afshar, a leading neurosurgeon whose Harley Street practice is next door to Dr Lloyd's. The former dictator was moved to the Grovelands Priory Hospital, a private psychiatric concern, on October 29 to continue his rehabilitation.

But during his stay at the Grovelands it became apparent to staff that he was suffering from severe stress and he was put under the care of Dr Lloyd.

While the general's rigorous assessment is being completed, Chile's Foreign Minister, José Miguel Insulza, will continue to press the case that he has diplomatic and state immunity when he meets Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, in London today.



Celia Larkin, who lives with Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, in Dublin yesterday with Cherie Blair. The two women got on famously

Blair's historic visit delights Dail

BY MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR used the first speech ever delivered by a British Prime Minister to Ireland's parliament yesterday to herald the end of centuries of Anglo-Irish enmity and the start of a new era of friendship and co-operation.

"So much shared history. So much shared pain. And now the hope of a new beginning," he told 300 Irish parliamentarians and dignitaries who packed the Dail for the historic event and gave him several warm ovations.

"Down through the centuries Ireland and Britain have inflicted too much pain each on the other. But now, the UK and Ireland as two modern countries, can try to put our histories behind us, try to forgive and forget those age-old enmities."

Mr Blair acknowledged the present deadlock in the peace process and delivered a stern message to Northern Ireland's Unionists and republicans. He said that "we have come too far to go back now", and that it was "time for all the parties to live up to all their commitments". It was "time to set up the institutions of the new government. Time for the gun and the threat of the gun to be taken out of politics once and for all; for decommissioning to start.

"I am not asking anyone to surrender," he said as Gerry Adams watched from the gallery. "I am asking everyone to declare the victory of peace."

Mr Blair suggested that the removal of Northern Ireland as a constant source of friction opened the door to a much wider and deeper relationship between Great Britain and Ireland.

The fact of Mr Blair's address was as important as its content. "Your very presence here today symbolises . . . the coming of age of the relationship between or two countries," Seamus Pattison, Speaker of the Dail, said in his introduction. Mr Blair replied with a few words of ill-pronounced Irish: "Go raibh mile maith agaibh", or "thank you", and "Oireachtas", Irish for the upper and lower houses of parliament. His attempt brought warm applause.

Trevor Sargent, a fluent Irish speaker and Green Party member of parliament, said, however, that President Clinton showed more fluency during his visits to Ireland: "I don't really know how much practice Tony Blair did before he used his phrases, but I got the impression that he was not as carefully rehearsed as Bill Clinton."

Cherie Blair gave a helping hand while in Dublin with her husband and cemented the position of Celia Larkin as Ireland's first lady. Ms Larkin is in the odd position of living with Bertie Ahern, the Prime Minister; he remains married to his estranged wife. Many Roman Catholics have expressed opposition to the relationship, but Mrs Blair and Ms Larkin behaved like old friends throughout the visit after hugging on meeting at Dublin airport.

New M&S casualty

The boardroom rift at Marks & Spencer claimed the head of Keith Oates, its deputy chairman. Peter Salsbury, a managing director, was appointed chief executive..... Pages 7, 29

More drivers

Train companies were pressed by John Prescott to recruit 800 new drivers within the next year. He said the performance on the railways was "unacceptable"..... Page 2

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No word for sorry in Japan

FROM DAVID WATTS IN TOKYO

JAPAN faced two opportunities to break with some of its more unpleasant history yesterday, but shrank from the challenge.

Arthur Titherington, 76, the chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, who spent three and a half years in slave labour, was overcome with emotion after Tokyo District Court rejected ex-prisoners' claims for compensation and an apology.

That judgment came as little surprise, but the Japanese Government had given the impression that a full and formal apology for the atrocities of Japanese forces in China from 1937 would be made to President Jiang Zemin.

But Japan's Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, employed only the words, "remorse and heartfelt apology" in a statement which neither signed.

Kowtow avoided, page 17

Family hit by double rape suffers further tragedy

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE suffering of a family hit by a double tragedy was disclosed yesterday after a burglar was given five life sentences at the Old Bailey for rape.

As William Kenealy went to prison for raping a woman and her nine-year-old daughter, it emerged that the girl's elder sister had drowned in a fountain where her body lay undiscovered for two weeks. The dead woman, who died in shallow water in Kensington Gardens, Central London, is believed to have drowned about three days before the start of the rape trial on November 16.

Her body, with the words "funky pumpkin" tattooed on her stomach, was identified yesterday after being recovered the day before. Police are treating her death as suspicious, but said there was no evidence of foul play.

The rape happened on Christmas night 1996 after family festivities at the flat where the 20-year-old woman had a history of psychiatric illness, left her mother's home to visit friends in London. A member of the park staff saw the body on November 13 after a passer-by reported an object under the water, but he disregarded it as rubbish in the fountain.



Kenealy: denied raping mother and daughter

Detectives want to interview anyone who saw the woman, who was single and unemployed, during the week after she left her mothers home. She had not been due to give evidence at the trial.

The mother, a widow and former nurse, described the knife-wielding Kenealy as "pure evil" after he was convicted earlier this week. She said: "He needs to be put down a pit. I could almost forgive him for what he did to me but not for what he did to my daughter."

Kenealy, 25, from Northolt, northwest London, denied twice raping mother and daughter, and later raping a 17-year-old girl.

Books for schools campaign

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

THE TIMES today launches the biggest initiative to replenish the shelves of school libraries.

Millions of free books will be available as part of the Free Books for Schools scheme, which has the backing of David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment

More than 14,000 schools have already registered for the scheme, which is being promoted by News International plc and Walkers Snack Foods Ltd.

The scheme offers a range of 150 different titles for each participating school in return for tokens found in *The Times* and other News International newspapers, as well as on packets of Walkers snack foods. The tokens will start appearing in the New Year.

Books offer, pages 8,9
Leading article, page 25

Centre for tearaways ordered to shape up

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

ELEVEN teenage tearaways are to be removed from Britain's troubled first child jail as the Home Office last night ordered urgent refurbishments and improvements in staff training.

The tough action plan was ordered by Paul Boateng, a Home Office Minister, who visited Medway Secure Training Centre near Rochester four days after an investigation by *The Times* disclosed a history of unrest, damage and staff departures at the unit. The intervention by Mr Boateng was, however, clouded by the news that Sue Clifton, the director of the centre, has been appointed as an unpaid adviser to the Youth Justice Board, offering advice on secure facilities for young people.

The minister said he had asked Rebound, the Group 4 subsidiary which runs the centre, to implement a "refurbishment" programme so as to ensure a high standard of care, control, education and training as required by its contract. He rebuked Rebound which admits that it was taken aback by the violent behaviour of many of the offenders. The centre opened this year. "We expect Rebound to deliver to these young people in conditions in which their welfare and public safety are secured. Nothing less will do," he said.

The offenders have been excluded from schools for an average of four years and each of the 60 who have spent time there had been convicted of an average of seven serious offences.

Mr Boateng was fully aware that a social services inspection team had criticised the centre, which can hold a maximum of 40 12-14-year-old persistent offenders. He said: "Whilst there are clearly some difficulties at Medway which I want to see put right, there is a willingness amongst those working there to get to grips with these problems. We should all be aware that the children placed have troubled backgrounds and are characterised by challenging behaviour. They require a high standard of care and management if they are to get to grips with their offending and make something of their young lives."

While work on the centre is being carried out the number of inmates will be reduced to 25. There are presently 36 children there.

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Caravanner stands coolly amid her colourless colleagues

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

If the former Welsh Secretary Ron Davies's favourite song is *I am what I am*, Margaret Beckett could find her theme tune in the Elton John songbook: *I'm still standing, after all these years ...*

For the Leader of the House — formerly President of the Board of Trade, formerly Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, formerly Shadow Health Secretary, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and Campaigns Co-ordinator, for a short time Acting Labour Leader after John Smith's death, and Shadow Chancellor before that — this is only the later phase of her political career. Earlier, as Margaret Jackson, she was a formidable minister in the Education Department, overseeing the comprehensivisation of schools. This woman is no quitter.

And Mrs Beckett is still standing, cool under fire, crisp, brisk and demure in her elegant trouser-suits and hard hair. Unfussed and unpretentious, she is an underrated asset to Labour at Westminster: a steady presence dyed in the natural hues of her party, not one of your new Labour Instant Whip politicians marketed in a bewildering range of artificial colourings, all vanilla.

Beckett's moods range from playful to icy but she never shouts. She has a steely quality. Such passion as she commands is expended quietly.

Wholly lacking airs and graces and an 'out' caravanner, she has never complained at this sketch — except once. After an unfortunate robbery at her home in Derby I remarked that one of Britain's finest collections of plastic earrings had been dispersed beyond recovery.

Mrs Beckett politely put me right: some of her earrings were Royal Doulton. When I wrote a sketch about a fly that had become caught in her hair during a press-conference, she presented me with a fly-swat.

Before fielding a labrynthine briefing about possible Lords tactics in the new Session, Mrs Beckett's lot was to face her weekly grilling by MPs on the forthcoming "Business of the House". Business Questions bear no more than a nodding acquaintance with Business: really just an opportunity for backbenchers to throw wet sponges at somebody in the Government. Mrs Beckett endured the kiddies' playtime with her usual poise. She has pioneered a new, nonsense approach to dealing with inquiries to which she does not know the answer: she replies that she does not know the answer. In British politics this is an astonishing novelty and leaves questioners floundering.

Only Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) slightly flustered her. In mocking reprise of a phrase of Peter Mandelson's, Mr Skinner told the Government that for General Pinochet to be let off the hook by the Home Secretary would be pretty gut-wrenching stuff. Oh yes, Skinner's still standing.

The debate following was led by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, a thoughtful, moderate, genial old socialist. Mr Dobson, too, is still standing — a Corinthian column, one of a few still upright among the rubble of a collapsed ideology. He was his usual, boisterous self.

Not much later, Michael Heseltine rose. With easy grace he swung a few desultory punches at the Government, just to show he still can, cheering up his own side immensely. Even when — as yesterday — the engine is only idling at the amber lights with a little rev here and there by way of display, we are reminded of the horsepower under that rhetorical bonnet.

In an age of Nescafé politics and Nescafé politicians, it is good to encounter, in Beckett, Skinner, Dobson, Heseltine, the sounds of the coffee-grinder and the aroma of real coffee.

Prescott urges train firms to recruit drivers

Deputy Prime Minister says performance is unacceptable, writes Arthur Leathley

TRAIN companies were pressed by John Prescott last night to recruit 800 new drivers within the next year as he said the performance on the railways was "unacceptable".

The Deputy Prime Minister has no statutory power to force the train companies to recruit drivers but he made it clear to a meeting of rail industry leaders that only companies that commit themselves to improving the service will be considered for future railway contracts. And, continuing his tough line, he told them that they had 12 months to improve punctuality and other standards before tougher laws are introduced to tighten regulation of the rail network.

However, Mr Prescott admitted that introducing improvements "will be a long haul" as senior rail managers concede that punctuality could worsen over the coming months before standards get better.

Shortages of drivers across the country have been blamed by many of the 25 train operators for problems in running punctual services. However, some 2,500 drivers lost their jobs in the run-up to privatisation, leaving some 14,000 in the new private industry.

The driver shortage, which has coincided with substantial increases in the number of train services, has forced many operators into an intense recruitment battle, with staff being poached at salaries of more than £25,000, especially by firms running long distance services.

Despite Mr Prescott's demands that train companies set out immediate plans to improve services he admitted that it would be some time before passengers saw higher standards. "It would be a long haul but today we saw a very positive step towards improving the system," he said after meeting rail industry leaders and regulators at his office.

The meeting was called by ministers exasperated at the worsening standards of punctuality over the last year, which have taken many train services back to the levels of British Rail. At yesterday's meeting, operators and Railtrack agreed to set up a joint working group to identify and tackle the 50 worst blackspots for delays and cancellations. Railtrack, the track and signalling company, has already identified some 20 sections of track that cause greatest congestion, but the firm has been criticised by the rail regulator, John Swift, for being too vague in its timetable for relieving the bottlenecks.

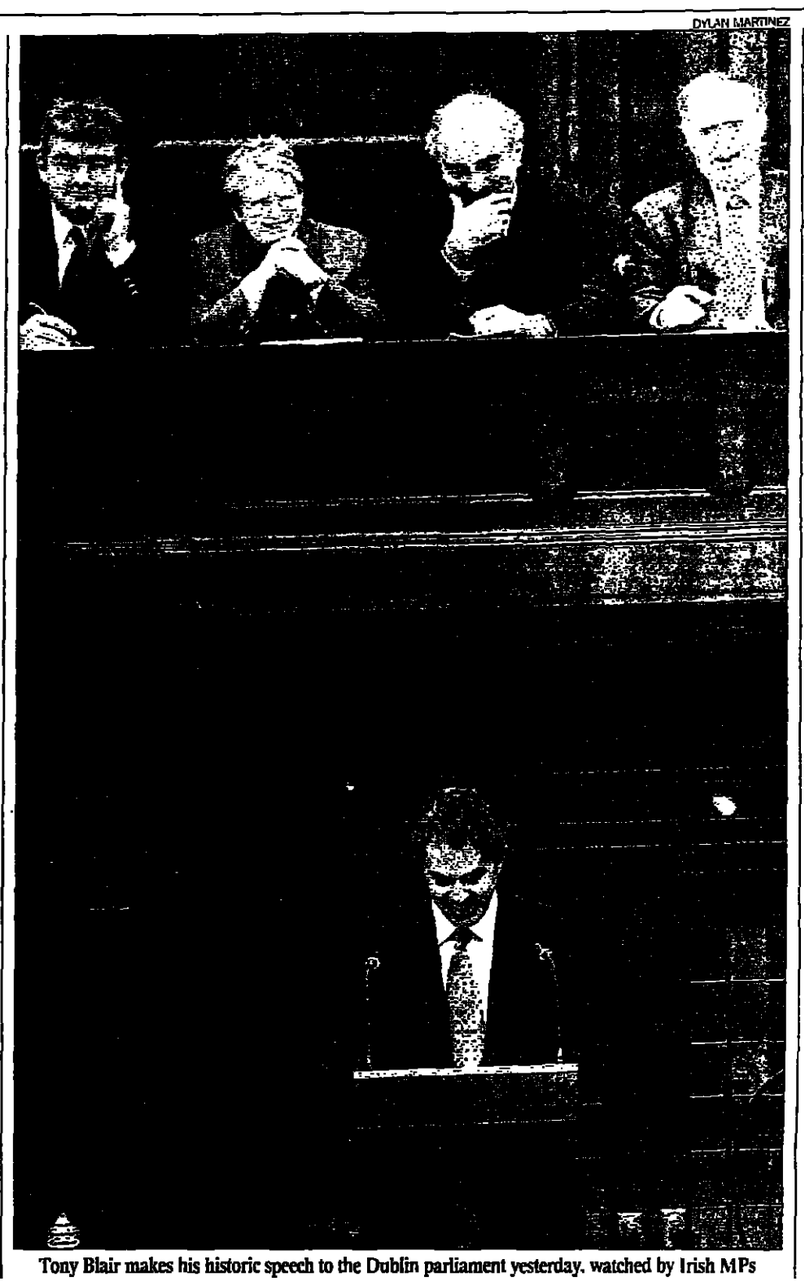
Most of the worst sections are on the commuter routes into London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Edinburgh but there are also other parts of the network that require extra track because the current two-track layout is proving inadequate.

Mr Prescott ordered the companies to set firm proposals by next February, when they will be called to a public meeting at which passengers will be able to question them on their plans.

Ministers also confirmed that they are planning to widen the range of targets that will be taken into consideration when deciding whether train companies will be allowed to renew their franchises. Currently, punctuality, train cancellations and overcrowding remain the main standards by which operators are judged and penalised financially. However ministers also plan to include levels of passenger-satisfaction over issues such as the cleanliness of trains, attitude of staff and levels of on-board catering.

John Reid, the Transport Minister who also attended yesterday's meeting, said that punctuality and cancellations would remain the most important factors, said He added that ministers would be setting up a shadow Strategic Rail Authority by next spring to co-ordinate policy between regulators and the industry.

DYLAN MARTINEZ



Tony Blair makes his historic speech to the Dublin parliament yesterday, watched by Irish MPs

Undercover police may hunt for racists

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BLACK London police officers may go undercover to test whether colleagues are racist and corruption investigators will set up traps with marked cash under Scotland Yard plans for "integrity tests".

The tests being planned by Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, could be targeted at stations, units or individuals who come under suspicion but senior officers say that the operations could also be random.

Investigators might be infiltrated into the stations as "sleepers" posing as ordinary officers to get close to suspects. Cases could be set up where police are confronted with large amounts of cash or drugs.

Unknown to the officers the evidence would in fact be marked or monitored by hidden cameras and microphones. Last month two former Flying Squad officers were convicted for a cannabis conspiracy.

If there are suspicions of racism the investigators may enrole members of local communities to help them check allegations of racial bias and language towards members of the ethnic communities. The Yard could also use black officers posing as civilians. A number already work undercover for the Yard's SO11 criminal intelligence unit.

The plans are the latest move by Sir Paul to drive corruption out his force. Detectives from his enlarged complaints investigation bureau will also target officers suspected of fabricating evidence in investigations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Councillor resigns after arrest

A councillor praised by Tony Blair for his leadership has resigned as head of his party group after being arrested by fraud squad detectives. Malcolm Glover is the second leader of the controlling Labour group on Doncaster council in south Yorkshire to resign within two years after being questioned by officers investigating corruption. He was appointed in March last year to replace Peter Welsh, who was also questioned by police.

Mr Glover, 47, was arrested on Wednesday by officers working on the Operation Danum investigation into claims of expenses fiddling, the awarding of contracts and helping developers obtain planning permission. Before the ocal government elections Mr Glover apologised for the council's poor performance.

CPS accused

The Crown Prosecution Service was yesterday accused of wasting millions of pounds following the collapse of a court case against two animal rights activists. After four years of legal argument, a judge has thrown out charges against Paul Rogers and Robin Webb of inciting arson and criminal damage by publishing articles in the animal rights magazine *Green Anarchist*, on the ground that the charges were wrongly worded.

Cash for colleges

The Government yesterday announced £720 million to improve standards of learning and the appearance of further education colleges, in support of its pledge to add 400,000 places to FE colleges before the next election. Announcing the money at the annual conference of the Association for Colleges, in Harrogate, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said he expected colleges to work hard to raise standards.

Director quits

The executive appointed to oversee a restructuring of the Arts Council of England has resigned unexpectedly. The departure of Graham Marchant, 45, six months after he was appointed executive director of arts and policy, astounded the arts community. The former general manager of the North London dance centre, The Place, and administrator at Opera North was brought in last June to slim down the Arts Council operation.

Patten sees his future in Europe

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS PATTEN yesterday gave the strongest signal yet that he would like his political future to be in Europe rather than Westminster.

The former Hong Kong governor said that he would be "delighted" to be approached as Britain's next European Commissioner when the job becomes available next year. He contrasted his enthusiasm for the Brussels post with scepticism for the other possibilities open to him, namely returning to the Commons as an MP or running for mayor of London.

The former Tory chairman and ex-MP for Bath said that there was a "very, very bad track record" of trying to parachute party grandees into the Commons, and suggested that he might not be wholehearted enough to throw himself into constituency business for a second time. And although not ruling himself out of the race to become the Tories' candidate for mayor, he raised doubts about whether the role would have enough executive powers to make it a credible job.

But asked about the job of succeeding Sir Leon Brittan as one of Britain's two European Commissioners next year, Mr Patten said: "It's an interesting idea. If anybody wants to talk to me about it I would be delighted to hear from them."

Although William Hague has suggested that he could accept Mr Patten in the job, such a move would present him with political difficulties because he has already put forward Alastair Goodlad, the former Tory Chief Whip, as his nomination. With Neil Kinnock holding the other post, the vacancy would by convention go to a Tory. The Prime Minister, who makes the appointment, is known to think highly of Mr Patten and gave him the job of heading the commission into the future of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Although predicting that William Hague would be the next Tory Prime Minister, Mr Patten criticised the party leader's policy of ruling out the single currency for the lifetime of the next parliament: "Waiting and seeing is more sensible than waiting a very long time and then seeing."

But he also took a sideswipe at Mr Blair's adoption of the "Third Way" as the Government's guiding philosophy.

West too weak to keep peace, says Portillo

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

NUCLEAR confrontation is more likely than at any time in the last 30 years because of the collapse of the West's moral authority, Michael Portillo will say today.

In an outspoken attack on the way the Nato alliance has responded to recent emergencies in Kosovo and Iraq, the former Defence Secretary will become the first senior British politician to suggest that President Clinton's troubles over the Monica Lewinsky controversy have damaged western interests. In a speech to the Royal United Services Institute in London, Mr Portillo will not name the president.

But he will say: "Our wishes no longer hold sway, our words no longer convince and our willpower no longer impresses. When Western leaders are involved in scandals, respect for the West is reduced further, and with it our influence too."

His main criticism, however, will be directed at the failure of other European governments sufficiently to back Britain and the United States in the crises of the last few months. Referring to the series of Nato warnings to Saddam Hussein over weapons inspections in Iraq, he says: "An Iraqi undertaking was considered sufficient reason to call off the mission, even though an American official described it as being full of holes."

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Mother's day has gone, says custody judge

A JUDGE has given a boost to "father power" by ruling that a father was the right parent of a broken marriage to bring up his two-year-old child.

Mr Justice Cazalet, a family division judge, made clear in the Court of Appeal yesterday that the days had gone when mothers could assume they were the ones who should care for the children.

In the past decade, he said, the growing equality of the sexes in the chores of marriage had resulted in fathers being "much better equipped to look after children nowadays", if necessary, on their own.

The judge's ruling appears to mark a shift from the House of Lords' ruling in 1996 in which it was held that a young child's place is normally with its mother, not its father.

In the case before the court, both parents were Asian and the marriage — now dissolved — had been an arranged one. The mother did not work and the father was self-employed and worked from home using a computer.

Mr Justice Cazalet upheld a Cambridge county court ruling in September that the little boy at the centre of the dispute should remain with his father.

A factor in the decision was the court's fear that if the child went to his mother, she might go to India and remain there; whereas the father was likely to allow the child to remain in contact with his mother.

The stereotype of parental roles is losing ground in child access cases, reports Frances Gibb

Lord Justice Hirst, agreeing, said he considered that the father was the right and most trustworthy parent for the child to be with.

He considered that if the mother — whom he described as unreliable and untrustworthy — was given the child, the likelihood was that the father would lose contact with his son.

The ruling — the latest to confirm the equal parental rights of fathers — was welcomed yesterday.

Susan Maidment, counsel for the father, said yesterday that such a decision was unusual.

She said: "The courts traditionally have bent over backwards to say that there is no presumption that the child should be with the mother. But the reality is that the mother does get the child, unless there is some strong factor against her."

Jim Parton, the chairman of the fathers' rights group, Families Need Fathers, welcomed the ruling and "the fact that judges are prepared to consider the possibility of giving residence to a father."

But, he said, such rulings still made up only a tiny minority of all decisions about the care of a child.

He emphasised that the way forward was not for the child to go to one parent or the other, but for courts to make more use of joint residence orders.

"We are all victims of the present adversarial system in which the winner takes all. That is where it all goes wrong," he said.

Another ruling which gave a judicial boost to fathers' rights, was in August this year, when a father who stayed at home while his wife worked, was granted sole rights to bring up their three children because of his role as the full-time carer. The mother was allowed to have the children on alternate weekends.

The number of men who look after their children has risen from 44,000 to 89,000 in the past five years, according to the Office of National Statistics.

ADIL BRADLOW



The newly crowned Miss World, Linor Abargil from Israel, after winning the title in the Seychelles last night

Israel scoops unwanted double

BY DIANA BLAMIRES

TO WIN one maligned competition could be considered unlucky, but to win two could be construed as careless.

The unlikely honour fell to Israel last night when it added the title of Miss World to the Eurovision Song Contest.

Linor Abargil, 19, was crowned the 47th Miss World at a ceremoney in the Seychelles, broadcast on British terrestrial television for the first time in ten years.

Eric Morley, who organised the first contest in 1951, insists the contest has shed its bathing beauty image and is now more about elegance and intelligence. As if to back up his claims, it emerged that Miss Abargil wants a career in media communications and dances jazz, classical, modern and ballet.

Miss Abargil edged out Miss France, Veronique Caloc, who came second, and Miss Malaysia, Pick Lim Lina Teoh, to win the title. The new Miss World, who takes over from Diana Hayden of India, will have to address audiences across the world during her one-year reign, her job being to raise money for charities.

According to the organiser, Gilbert Pool, the Seychelles, which spent $6.5 million on the pageant, is hoping that the television exposure will increase the flow of tourists to the islands, where backpackers are discouraged in favour of well-off visitors who will leave the fragile environment intact.

Children tortured schoolboy for three hours

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A BROTHER and sister who tortured a boy for nearly three hours after abducting him on his way home from school have been detained for a total of seven and a half years.

Their 11-year-old victim was repeatedly kicked, punched, stabbed, beaten with sticks and thrown into a river after being frogmarched to a lonely park. He suffered more than 40 injuries before he staggered home to his parents nearly a mile away, Carlisle Crown Court was told.

Yesterday Daniel Greer, 12, of Carlisle, was ordered to be detained in secure children's accommodation for four and a half years. His sister, Emma, 15, was detained for three years. They had admitted false imprisonment and assault causing actual bodily harm.

Judge Robert Brown took the unusual step of allowing them to be named in the media, saying they posed a serious risk of harming others.

During the attack they hit the boy 40 times with his tennis racquet, whipped him with branches and pushed him three times into the waist-deep River Petteril.

Barristers representing the two children blamed the way they had been brought up by uncaring parents. Daniel Greer was described as "a deeply troubled child".

Nine O'Clock survivors hold pagan ritual

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of Sheffield's notorious Nine O'Clock Service, disbanded after its leader was found to have abused women members, are still going strong and recently celebrated a pagan festival in a Church of England chapel, it is disclosed today.

The surviving members of the service, now renamed the Nine O'Clock Community, celebrated Samhain, a pagan fire festival, in a service that made no reference to Jesus Christ.

The 20 adults and ten children sang along to a Sinead O'Connor track, *Thank you for Hearing Me*, in a service with a backbeat of continuous percussion provided by the children, who had been given an old baby milk can or margarine carton filled with dry peas.

The service sheet described the festival as "associated with the remembrance of ancestors". It listed ten activities for the season, which included the advice: "Seek the sun at midnight, the rich treasures that lie in the land of winter."

After a seven-minute sermon on the meaning of Samhain by Jim, a lay member of the church, the congregation were invited to take part in a "threshold ritual" where they wrote down their hopes and fears for the future. They then left the chapel to burn these on a bonfire.

In the sermon, the congregation was told that people in the West are so preoccupied with life and death they have forgotten their ancestors, and that they should try to remember and communicate with them in future to avoid repeating past mistakes. The Nine O'Clock Service, at one time a prototype for new forms of "rave" worship in the Church of England, was disbanded in the summer of 1995 after its leader, Chris Brain, faced allegations that he had abused women members.

The following April, members were assigned a chaplain, the Rev Philip Allin, and the community moved to an Anglican chapel in Attercliffe.

But the pagan service was "outed" on the Internet this week after a visit by an Anglican who worships at another Sheffield church. According to a report in today's *Church Times*,

Mr Allin was not at the pagan service because he had flu. Instead, the service was led by lay members of the congregation.

The service is described by a "mystery worshipper", one of a team of worshippers who visit churches incognito, on a Christian website, *Ship of Fools*.



Brain: leader who faced allegations

Morphine killed surgeon's wife

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A GP's future was in the balance today after he was convicted of the manslaughter of a consultant's wife he was treating for a migraine.

Meer Abdul Raheem killed Patsy Helm, 41, with an overdose of pain-killing morphine 20 times the normal dose. He had denied her manslaughter in May 1996 while working for a GP deputising service.

Dr Raheem, 55, who also runs two practices in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, was bailed to return to Sheffield Crown Court for sentencing today. A manslaughter conviction carries a penalty ranging from probation to a life sentence. Dr Raheem will also face an investigation by the General Medical Council.

The woman's husband, Roger Helm, an orthopaedic surgeon, who was working at the time at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, had told the court that he called a doctor when his wife was still unwell the morning after they left a dinner party early because of her migraine.

Dr Raheem went to a local chemist for a milder pain-killer but could only get diamorphine hydrochloride, a form of morphine, taking 100 milligrammes, which he injected into Mrs Helm. Later her husband could not rouse her. Shortly afterwards she was certified dead.

Dr Raheem told the court: "I was absolutely horrified at the most tragic incident in my whole life." He said he had mixed the dose of diamorphine with distilled water and calculated the correct dose.

Experts cast doubt on site of Anglo-Saxon sword find

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE mystery surrounding the discovery of a rare golden Anglo-Saxon sword pommel deepened yesterday after an inquest was told that the toy metal detector said to have found it "could not pick up a dustbin lid".

Ernest Graves, who regularly searches for buried artefacts, told a treasure trove inquest in Hull: "It is just unbelievable to find something like the pommel with a machine of that type."

The hearing had earlier been told that police had investigated the claim by John Sutton and his son-in-law, Nigel Wilding, that they found the pommel, which is worth up to £1.2 million, on a beach at Aldbrough, East Riding. After checking allegations that the pommel, possibly once the property of a nobleman of royal blood, might actually have come from a known Saxon site at Melton, near Hull, police took no no further action.

Mr Wilding has said that he found the four-inch pommel inside a clay boulder with a second-hand children's detector that he had bought at a car boot sale for £10.

Mr Graves, a friend of Mr Sutton, said: "The size of the boulder and the clay means there would be no chance in this world that something as small as the pommel could be detected inside." Mr Graves, of Hull, contacted the coroner, Geoffrey Saul, shortly before the inquest opened in July to voice doubts about Mr Sutton's story.

He said that he had taped conversations with Mr Sutton which he claimed showed discrepancies in the story. He told the court that he had been on a trip with Mr Sutton the day before the discovery of the pommel on November 13 last year to a farmer's field in Melton.

Experts from the Humber Archaeology Partnership told the inquest that there was no conclusive evidence that the pommel came from Melton Hill. Christopher Loveluck said that his group had made a comprehensive survey of the two sites, and that while there had been a discovery of Anglo-Saxon remains at Melton in 1907, no remains had been found on the beach at Aldbrough.

"Because of the total absence of other Anglo-Saxon remains in the area, no physical abrasion from the sea or any salt corrosion it seems extremely suspicious that this find was made on the beach at Aldbrough," he said.

The inquest continues.



SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

LONDON
BAKER STREET 0171 486 4640
BRENTFORD (Showroom) 0181 568 6279
BECKTON (Allied Carpets) 0181 594 2171
BROMLEY 0181 466 1647
BROMLEY 0181 466 6849
CHINGFORD 0181 529 0162
CROYDON (Showroom) 0181 681 6195
CROYDON 0181 760 5826
DAGENHAM (Showroom) 0181 517 1458
FINCHLEY 0181 349 4277
HANWORTH (Showroom) 0181 894 1198
HARROW 0181 424 9854
HAYES (Showroom) 0181 561 3209
KENSINGTON (Showroom) 0171 371 4373
KINGSBRIDGE (Showroom) 0181 329 2871
KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES 0181 546 1226
RICHMOND (Showroom) 0181 876 9520
SUTTON 0181 642 6764
TWICKENHAM 0181 607 9695
WALTHAMSTOW (Showroom) 0181 531 4564
WELLING 0181 301 3747
WILLESDEN (Showroom) 0181 450 0325
WIMBLEDON 0181 542 1322
WIMBLEDON (Showroom) 0181 944 7843
WOOD GREEN 0181 888 1687

SOUTH EAST
ASHFORD 01233 645832
AYLESBURY 01296 398888
BANSTEAD 01737 370321
BASILDON Vange (Showroom) 01268 585317
BASILDON (Showroom) Off A127) 01268 282611
BEDFORD (Great Hills) 01234 356990
CAMBERLEY 01276 691834
CAMBERLEY (Showroom) 01276 681281
CANTERBURY (Allied Carpets) 01227 788824
CHATHAM (Showroom) 01634 671799
CHELMSFORD (Allied Carpets) 01245 358221
CHELMSFORD (Showroom) 01245 280905
CRAWLEY (Showroom) 01293 536529
DORKING 01306 740858
DOVER (Showroom) 01304 829857
EASTBOURNE 01323 470346
EPSOM 01372 744288
EWELL (Showroom) 0181 393 6479
FARNHAM 01252 733445
GRAVESEND (Great Hills) 01474 355861
GUILDFORD 01483 572121
HARLOW (Showroom) 01279 412359
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD (Showroom) 01442 266552
HIGH WYCOMBE 01494 472619
HITCHIN 01462 435549
LUTON (Showroom) 01582 561345
LUTON 01582 727926
MAIDSTONE (Aylesford Showroom) 01622 790976
ORPINGTON 01689 837734
RAYLEIGH (Showroom next to J. Sainsbury) 01268 776640
READING (Great Hills) 0118 945 5448
READING (Showroom) 0118 958 9988
REDHILL (Showroom) 01737 763671
RUISLIP 01895 677475
RUISLIP (Showroom) 0181 845 8829
ST. ALBANS (Showroom) 01727 831721
SLOUGH 01753 572130
SOUTHEND 01702 464722
STAINES 01784 461791
STAINES (Showroom) 01784 464879
STEVENAGE (Showroom) 01438 358919
STEVENAGE 01438 811704
TAPLOW/MAIDENHEAD 01628 606644
THURROCK 01708 868181
TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Showroom) 01892 548028
WALTHAM CROSS (Showroom) 01992 645150
WATFORD (Showroom) 01923 240287
WATFORD 01923 252724
WOKING 01483 728918

EAST ANGLIA
CAMBRIDGE 01223 309433
COLCHESTER (Allied Carpets) 01206 561113
COLCHESTER St Andrews Way (Showroom) 01206 866823
IPSWICH (Showroom Lyon Road) 01473 236099
IPSWICH (Showroom Princes Road) 01473 728885
KING'S LYNN 01553 760092
NORWICH (Showroom) 01603 487535
PETERBOROUGH (Great Hills) 01733 897966
PETERBOROUGH 01733 317799
SOUTHEND 01702 524524

SOUTH WEST
BASINGSTOKE (Showroom) 01256 323645
BOURNEMOUTH Wimborne 01202 528374
BRIGHTON 01273 220619
CHICHESTER (Showroom) 01243 530934
FARNHAM 01420 520420
HOVE (Showroom) 01273 732966
NEWBURY 01635 569923
POOLE (Great Hills) 01202 718237
PORTSMOUTH (Showroom) 01705 280249
SALISBURY (Showroom) 01722 414172
SOUTHAMPTON (Showroom) 01703 510698
SOUTHAMPTON (Great Hills) 01489 780263
SOUTHAMPTON (Showroom) 01703 230927
WALTON-ON-THAMES 01932 244868
WEYBRIDGE 01932 850745
WINCHESTER (Showroom) 01962 870519
WORTHING 01903 823436

THE MIDLANDS
BIRMINGHAM 0121 631 1200
CORBY (Rowlett) 01536 264274
COVENTRY 01203 638644
COVENTRY (Showroom) 01203 679289
DERBY (Pioneer Centre) 01332 295299
DERBY (Showroom) 01332 365228
DUDLEY Merry Hill Centre 01384 265453
EVESHAM (Great Hills) 01386 422642
HANLEY (Great Hills) 01782 288145
HEREFORD 01432 351287
LEAMINGTON SPA (Great Hills) 01926 436128
LEAMINGTON SPA 01926 451301
LEICESTER (Showroom) 0116 2541262
LEICESTER 0116 2620899
LINCOLN (Showroom) 01522 512381
LOUGHBOROUGH (Showroom) 01509 234523
MILTON KEYNES 01908 204430
MILTON KEYNES (Showroom) 01908 234949
NEWCASTLE-U-LYME (Showroom) 01782 712898
NORTHAMPTON (Showroom, Weedon Road) 01604 782489
NORTHAMPTON (Showroom, Riverside Retail Park) 01604 488884
NOTTINGHAM 0115 9881555
NOTTINGHAM Arnold (Showroom) 0115 9611311
OLDBURY (Showroom) 0121 544 1995
OXFORD (Showroom) 01865 777170
SHREWSBURY (Showroom) 01743 468754
SHREWSBURY 01743 340260
SOLIHULL 0121 705 6266
SUTTON COLDFIELD 0121 354 1888
SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD 01623 511537
WALSALL 01922 625522
WOLVERHAMPTON (Showroom) 01902 857212
WORCESTER (Allied Carpets) 01905 753514
WORCESTER (Showroom) 01905 454502

WALES & THE WEST
BARNSTAPLE (Allied Carpets) 01271 327713
BATH (Showroom) 01225 462580
BRISTOL Bedminster (Great Hills) 0117 9539155
BRISTOL 0117 9252188
BRISTOL (Showroom) 0117 9313995
CARDIFF 01222 222517
CARDIFF (Showroom) 01222 463886
CARDIFF 01222 447187
CHELTENHAM (Showroom) 01242 580331
EXETER 01392 432665
GLOUCESTER (Great Hills) 01452 382446
LLANDUDNO (Allied Carpets) 01492 872288
LLANELLI (Great Hills) 01554 774799
LLANTRISANT 01443 225626
MERTHYR TYDFIL 01685 722244
NEWPORT (Showroom) 01633 856828
NEWTON ABBOT (Showroom) 01626 334291
PLYMOUTH 01752 480480
REDRUTH (Great Hills) 01209 719704
SALTASH (Great Hills) 01752 847225
SHREWSBURY (Showroom) 01743 468754
SHREWSBURY 01743 340260
SWANSEA 01792 790878
SWINDON (Showroom) 01793 484848
TAUNTON (Allied Carpets) 01823 334868
TROWBRIDGE (Great Hills) 01225 775484
WESTON-SUPER-MARE (Great Hills) 01934 627832
WORLE (Showroom) 01934 522381
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7

Santas sit exam in running a grotto

Simon de Bruxelles on Britain's first Father Christmas diploma

THE telephone rings at the other end of the line.

"Hello, shopping centre security," a voice answers.

"Can you put me through to Santa's grotto please?"

Click. "Good morning, Father Christmas speaking."

"Hello, this is Simon de Bruxelles from *The Times*. Is that Rex?"

"No, this is Father Christmas."

"Well, would you mind if I had a word with you about the course you are running in Santa studies?"

"Only if you say hello to the children first. This call is being broadcast through a teddy bear which moves his mouth when you talk. Say hello, children."

Childish giggles in the background. I have finally tracked Santa to his lair.

Rex, a middle-aged man who will only answer to the name Father Christmas, is running Britain's first course in Santa Clausing.

For the past eight weeks three students at an adult education college in Somerset have been learning how to befriend children without scaring their parents. No longer is it enough to dress up in a red costume, wear a cotton wool beard and slap your thighs while chortling "Ho, Ho, Ho".

Not only does today's Santa have to study voice projection and "ambient lighting for grottos", he has to produce a certificate from the police proving that he has a clean record.

Santa has been having a lean time recently: only half the number of stores have grottos this year compared to last. Many department stores have banned children from sitting on Santa's knee, fearing it could be misconstrued.

Father Christmas said: "For 364 days of the year parents tell their children not to talk to strangers. When they take them to see Santa they tell them not only to talk to this total stranger but also to sit on his knee in a strange room.

"We want to help parents feel absolutely sure that their children are with a trustworthy person."

Students are given trained in all aspects of Santa Clausing, including the history of Father Christmas, understanding the public, running your own grotto, choosing toys, how to train elves and dealing with difficult situations.

After the eight-week course, fully qualified Santas can hope to earn anything between £8 and £125 an hour.

The three graduates of Weston College in Weston-super-Mare who were aged between 35 and 73 have taken their diplomas in Santa Clausing and have found work in local shopping malls.

Kath Panes, the head of adult education, said: "We believe this is a professional job and that it should be treated as such. All people who pass the course gain a diploma and next year we hope to take on students from all over on our residential course."

Hundreds of inquiries have been received from as far away as Canada and Sweden since details of the course were released on the Internet.

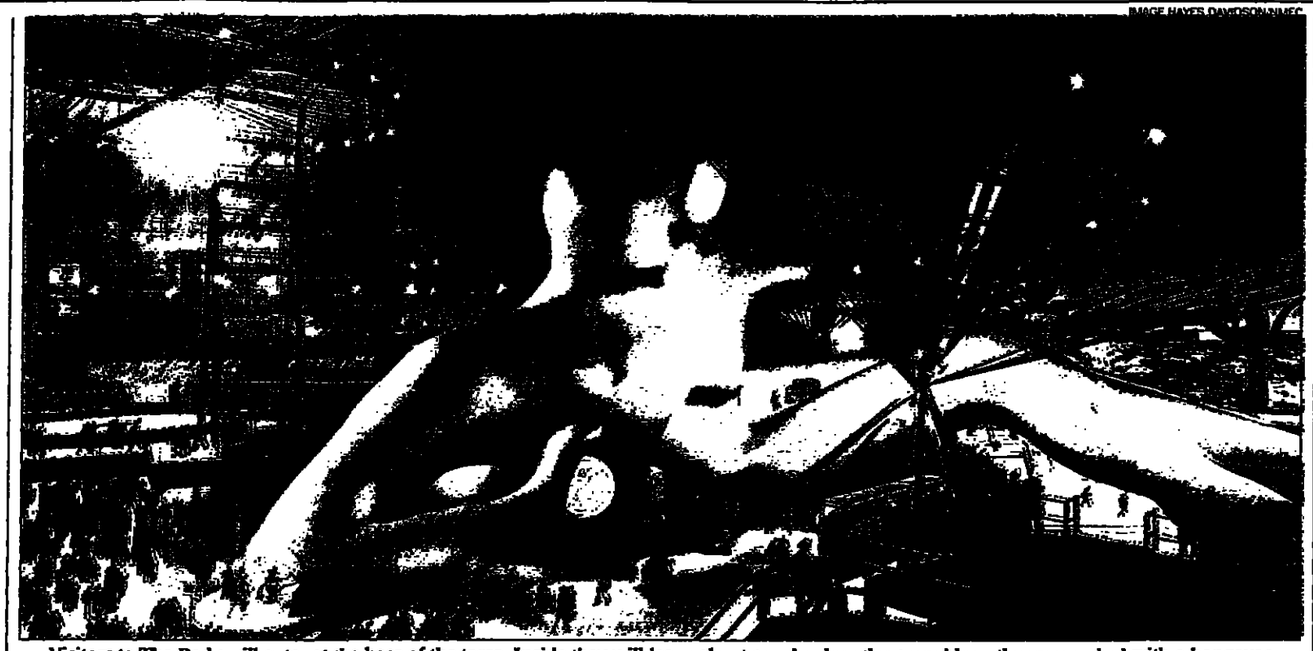


IMAGE HAYES DAVIDSON/NMEC

Visitors to The Body will enter at the base of the torso. Inside they will learn about gurgles, heartbeats and how the organs deal with a hangover

Legless man to greet Dome visitors

By Mark Henderson

A GIANT abstract sculpture showing a male and female figure embracing will welcome visitors to the Millennium Dome, it was announced yesterday.

The monumental figures, dubbed "The Body", are 90ft high and 200ft long and form the centrepiece of the Body Zone — the first exhibit the public will see on entering the £758 million canopy in 2000.

The man reclines on an elbow with his left arm embracing the woman and both figures lean towards the entrance of the Dome in a gesture of welcome. They are joined at the torso, leaving only the woman with legs.

The sleek design, by the architect Nigel Coates, echoes Henry Moore and removes the "giggle factor" of showing genitalia by giving the male figure an upper half only. Earlier plans for a single male, female or asexual figure were abandoned in part because of worries about the effect of large or absent private parts.

Visitors will enter at the base of the torso and climb an escalator to take a tour through the workings of the human body. One section will explain how your insides deal with a hangover, and another will concentrate on body sounds — the heartbeat and the gurgles of the stomach. The exit route leaves through the legs, into an interactive "exploration area" on health, beauty and medical advances.

The long-awaited final design for The Body was unveiled yesterday to mark the landmark of 400 days until the site in Greenwich, south east London, opens its doors on December 31, 1999. Earlier designs for the figure included large male or female figures, and a mother and baby. It will be sponsored by £12 million from Boots the Chemist.

Michael Grade, a director of the New Millennium Experience Company, said: "It is about getting into the body and finding out how you deal with things like a hangover."

Detailed plans for the Mind Zone were also revealed for the first time. An ambitious, gravity-defying shell designed by the Iranian-born architect Zaha Hadid, which has been likened to a giant diving-board, will house a celebration of the human brain and its creative power.



The Mind Zone has been compared to a diving board

Visitors will be able to see scans of their own brains, showing how different parts respond to different stimuli, and there will be explanation of the brain's powers of recovery — one exhibit will show its ability to "rewire" itself after an accident.

There will be a "Robot Zoo" showing the development of artificial intelligence from the 1950s to the present day and the future, and an ambitious film will explore space from the tiniest particles to satellite images. British Aerospace and GEC were named as joint sponsors of the zone, each contributing £6 million, prompting some disquiet about the involvement of two of Britain's largest arms exporters.

Jennie Page, chief executive of the New Millennium Experience Company, said: "All the technology on show in the Mind Zone will have a civil application. We are not looking to have defence as a topic anywhere in the Dome."

There was further controversy about the role of the American fast-food chain McDonald's as the £12 million sponsor of Our Town Story, a daily pageant featuring different communities around Britain. One Liberal Democrat MP said that the involvement of such firms was turning the Dome into little more than a "trade fair".

McDonald's will have two of the 30 food outlets inside the Dome, Ms Page said. She also announced that the 5,000 capacity Baby Dome was likely to show films "celebrating one of the greatest gifts to the world of the last 2,000 years — the British sense of humour."

Total sponsorship for the Dome has now reached £120 million, just £30 million short of its £150 million target, and Ms Page said advanced negotiations were under way over another £15 million.

☐ London Transport's chief executive was attacked by MPs yesterday after setting a "last minute date" — the end of next October — to finish the Jubilee Line in time for the opening of the Dome. The Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee criticised Denis Tunnicliffe for not having any contingency plans in place.

Private schools claim distortion in tables

By Victoria Fletcher

THREE QUARTERS of independent schools will have their performance misrepresented in the league tables to be published next week, the private sector schools body claimed yesterday.

Schools such as Winchester College, one of the most academically successful in the country, will be shown to have achieved grades 10 per cent worse than their candidates' actual results.

The problem has arisen because the Department for Education bases its statistics only on the grades of pupils who were 15 at the beginning of the school year in which they took their GCSEs. In many independent schools and some state schools, however, a small number of pupils in the GCSE year are just over or just under this statutory age. Although the results of the under-age pupils are included in the year that they pass 15, children taking the examinations when they are over the age cohort appear, statistically speaking, as failures.

A survey by the Independent Schools Information Service compared the results of 470 fee-paying schools with the figures for those schools published by the Government. For one in four of these schools, the official statistics will show them performing more than 10 per cent worse than they actually did. Boarding schools, which have higher proportions of pupils from overseas or whose previous education has been disrupted, were particularly hard hit.

The actual GCSE points score achieved at Felsted School in Essex was 51.2, but it is given as only 44.3 in Department for Education figures. The headmaster, Stephen Roberts said: "Despite meetings and letters, the [department] continues to publish statistics which do not represent fairly the performance of schools and their pupils."

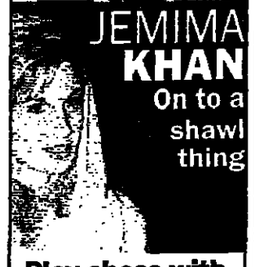


IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

NICOLE KIDMAN
The hell of being a redhead



JEMIMA KHAN
On to a shawl thing



Play chess with GARY KASPAROV



ONLY 50P

Sick husband saved by wife in a million

Kidney swap couple have beaten huge odds against donor operation, writes Ian Murray

A WOMAN is to give her ailing husband a new lease on life by giving him one of her kidneys.

Doctors have discovered that the couple, related only by marriage, have not only the same blood group but the same cell structure, giving the best possible chance of a successful transplant.

Peter Creteau, 58, an electronic engineer from Corfe Mullen in Dorset, was told that he would probably have to wait for at least five years for a transplant operation when he was diagnosed with renal failure.

With 5,500 people on the national transplant waiting list his chances of finding a suitable donor were slim and he faced years of relying on a dialysis machine. It was then that his wife Raphaella volunteered to give him one of her kidneys.

"I made up my mind that I would offer one of my kidneys, but I didn't tell Peter until we were in front of the doctors," she said last night. "They said our children were more likely to be a match, but I felt their life span is greater than mine so I should be the first to be eliminated."

Doctors told her that as she was not a blood relative it was unlikely that she would be a suitable donor. She was born in Italy and he in France but she insisted they carried out tests anyway.

"I was amazed to discover it was a perfect match," she said. "The doctor said he'd never heard of it happening in Britain before. It was absolutely phenomenal. We were both stunned when we came out of hospital.

"I told Peter after 33 years of marriage we finally found something we had in common — the same blood group. That broke the tension.

"One doctor told me it was a chance in a million. My only worry is in case anything goes wrong with the operation, but the surgeons have said there is a 96 per cent chance of success because it is a live transplant.

"Nothing in life is 100 per cent so we decided to have a go for it, it's just amazing."

Mr Creteau said: "It's absolutely amazing to share something in life with your wife other than material things. I am more worried about Raphaella having her operation than me, because hers is far more difficult."

Rachel Stoddard-Murden, transplant co-ordinator at Derriford Hospital, said: "The chances of a wife being a match for her husband are less than 1 per cent."



UNITED NEWS

Peter and Raphaella Creteau: doctors were amazed that their cells matched so well

BA pilot accepts damages over surgery

By Tim Jones

A PILOT who claimed his career was destroyed after a failed reverse circumcision shattered his confidence yesterday accepted more than £800,000 in damages to end his High Court action.

James Williams, 42, had been seeking more than £3 million in compensation from John Pryor, the consultant surgeon who operated to give him a new foreskin, but said he found it too traumatic to continue the case. Mr Williams has made a complaint to the General Medical Council against Mr Pryor, who operated on him at the private Lister Hospital in Chelsea.

The court heard that the skin graft Mr Williams had received in a reverse circumcision operation in 1994, designed to cure discomfort during sex, had turned gangrenous and he had almost lost his penis. Nicholas Leviseur, his counsel, had told the judge: "The effects have been catastrophic. His moods are volatile. His self-confidence has gone and his nerves are shot."

Last night, Laurence Vick, his solicitor, said: "Mr Williams considers himself extremely fortunate to have survived this operation. He suffered the most appalling injuries to his abdomen and genitals as a result of what he understood was to be a straightforward procedure involving a short hospital stay."

Mr Vick added: "These events resulted in the loss of his career as an airline pilot after he had to be medically retired by British Airways. It had been his life-long ambition to fly and he is understandably bitter." The past four years, he said, had been a great strain for his client, who had suffered humiliation and trauma pursuing the claim.

However, he added, Mr Williams "feels passionately this is a course of action he had to take to prevent this happening to anyone else".

Since the operation, in December 1994, the court was told, Mr Williams, who earned £66,000 a year flying Jumbo Jets, had become a broken man who suffered from such depression and post-traumatic stress he was unlikely to fly again. He had undergone six operations to repair the damage he had suffered and had lost his family and his home in Devon.

In a statement issued through the Medical Defence Union, Mr Pryor, who denied negligence or breach of duty, said: "I did not have the opportunity to give evidence in court but I maintain that his complex surgery was performed properly and competently."

Neglect charges levelled at carers

By Mark Henderson

FIVE carers were being questioned over neglect allegations last night after detectives and social workers raided a residential home in Essex for vulnerable children and adults.

Two women aged 59 and 39 were held on suspicion of neglect and perverting the course of justice, while two other women, both aged 61, also face neglect charges.

A fifth carer, a man aged 26, was arrested in Cornwall and was being returned to Colchester last night for questioning.

Officers and social workers from the Essex child protection unit made the arrests following allegations of physical abuse of residents of the Old Convent in Bicknacre, near Chelmsford.

More than 100 police and social workers were involved on the raid, which began at 7.30 am yesterday.

Twelve children and fourteen adults staying at the home, which is run by an independent charity, were taken to new accommodation in Colchester, 15 miles away.

Detective Chief Superintendent Lee Weavers, head of Essex CID, said: "The focus of the intervention today was on behalf of the children and vulnerable adults with disabilities.

"Our principle objective was to ensure the safety of the residents while minimising their anxiety and any possible distress."

Officers plan to search the premises for three to five days for evidence. A helpline has been set up for concerned relatives of residents.

The home has been run by the independent Family In Trust since 1985.



Williams: complaint to Medical Council

Straw defends leadership style

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

JACK STRAW, the Home Secretary, last night turned on critics who accused the Government of "control freakery" and said that what they were witnessing was strong leadership. The Government's style was one of "effective government, a government with a clear purpose".

Labour's manifesto commitments, particularly on constitutional reform, could not be carried out without such effective leadership, he said.

Speaking yesterday at a conference organised by Democratic Audit and Charter 88, sponsored by *The Times*, Mr Straw took the opportunity to respond to critics of Tony Blair's centrist government.

Radical policies such as devolution and transfer of powers required a "strong and confident government.

"For such a radical process of change to be effective and enduring, it does need to be managed in a co-ordinated and structured way."

Mr Straw also used the occasion to nail the impression that he was "a leading opponent of Freedom of Information".

The Home Secretary, who was given responsibility for the proposed new draft FoI Bill by Mr Blair last summer, denied the charge and said he had already taken a number of steps to make the Home Office more open.

Mr Straw has ordered that all official statistics should be published independently of Ministers. He has also published all immigration and casework manuals, except those covering intelligence, law enforcement and sensitive areas, and has decided to give proper reasons for his decision to refuse any applications for British citizenship.

Mr Straw has also pledged to publish all findings of Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, and to set up voluntary registers of freemasons in the criminal justice system.

He made clear, however, that he was keen to ensure the detail of the draft bill was "right" but expected to publish in the new year.

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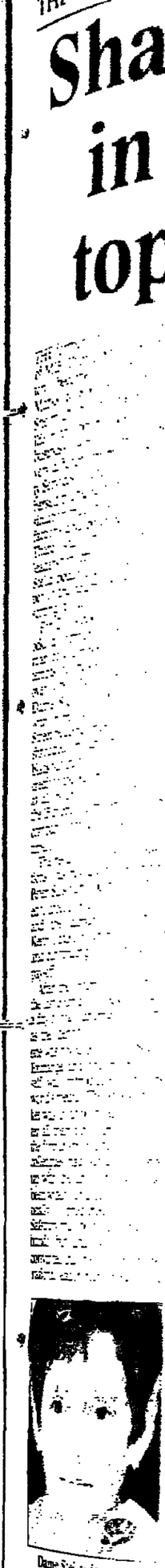
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7

BA pilot accepts damages over surgery

By Tim Jones

A PILOT who claimed he ca[reer] was destroyed after a [re]verse circumcision [co]nfidence yester[day] accepted more than [£]in damages to end [Hi]gh Court action.

[Ja]mes Williams, 42, had [be]en seeking more than [£]million in compensation [fr]om John Pryor, the consul[ta]nt surgeon who operated to [gi]ve him a new foreskin, but [sa]id it left him traumatic[al]ly scarred. Mr Williams made a complaint to the General Medical Council about Mr Pryor, who operated on him at the private Lister Hospital in Chelsea.

The court heard that the damage to Mr Williams had resulted in a reverse circumcision in 1994, de[spi]te discomfort during sexual intercourse, turned gangrenous and had almost los[t] his penis. Nicholas Levison, [Mr] Williams's counsel, told the judge that the case had been cata[st]rophic for Mr Woods and his wife. [Th]e confidence has [gone] and sexual activities are shor[t]. Clarence Vick, [Mr] Williams's solicitor, said: "Mr Williams himself ex[pe]cted to have surgery. He suffered ongoing injury and genuinely believed he underwent the right procedure."

defends
hip style

Shades of MI5 in battle for top store job

M&S

Ex-spymaster was caught in unprecedented web of intrigue, says Patience Wheatcroft

THE former Director-General of MI5, Dame Stella Rimington, became a director of Marks & Spencer last year. She might have expected that life in the boardrooms of big business would have been very different from the Security Services. Instead, she found herself plunged rapidly into a situation fraught with warring factions and political intrigue. There was an international leadership crisis, and Dame Stella became a crucial member of the team charged with sorting it out.

For 2½ weeks, Brian Baldock, a former deputy chairman of Guinness, led the attempts to resolve the battle over who should run M&S, Dame Stella working closely with him. With the Baker Street headquarters in London shrouded in an information blackout that would have done credit to the Kremlin, they met at all hours, interviewing all the 15 executive directors of the company, some of them many times.

The result of their deliberations was revealed yesterday, Peter Salsbury being promoted to chief executive of the firm and the deputy chairman, Keith Oates, clearing his desk and continuing to negotiate a pay-off.

After the intense secrecy of the last couple of weeks, it was a day of high drama for M&S as the identity of the chosen one was revealed to the Stock Exchange and the man himself was introduced to the world's media. The stock market was disappointed that, after all their top secret efforts, the former spymaster and her colleagues had actually come up with the answer that had been widely, and unenthusiastically, predicted. Peter Salsbury may be a safe pair of hands, but analysts are not convinced that he is the inspirational leader required for a multimillion-pound business in need of change. They are also concerned about how much authority he will have, given the continuing presence of Sir Richard Greenbury as chairman until mid-2000.



Dame Stella: familiar world of intrigue

Her 27 years in the security services may not have prepared Dame Stella for the challenge she and her colleagues faced in persuading Sir Richard to loosen his grip on the company. They knew that there was a looming problem at the top of M&S. The issue of who would succeed the formidable Sir Richard was one they had broached occasionally but left unresolved, partly because of his reluctance to relinquish his all-powerful position and partly because they were uncertain as to who would be capable of taking on the huge task of running M&S. The four managing directors he had lined up beneath him each had talents, but the non-executives had not been able to agree that any of them was ready to head a business with worldwide sales topping £8 billion.

However, nearly three weeks ago they were forced to act when Mr Oates made a public play for the top job. Such an event was unprecedented at M&S and the other directors were horror-struck. Sir Richard flew back from India to defend his position. Mr Baldock, who had helped to steer Guinness through its prolonged City scandal, Dame Stella and the four other M&S non-executives went into emergency session.

Communication between Baker Street and the outside world ceased as an inquisition worthy of the security services tried to establish whether Mr Oates himself had fed to the press the news of his ambitions to topple the chairman. Even Dame Stella was unable to extract a confession, but the news that Mr Oates is leaving abruptly, and against his wishes, is an indication of the board's view.

As the City was swept with rumour of blood flowing in the corridors of the nation's favourite, but faltering, retailer, the non-executives decided that they had no option but to tackle the succession issue decisively. With some of their number, including Sir Martin Jacomb, the Prudential chairman, away on business, they had to settle for a minimum quorum of three at their meetings, generally held at Baker Street, where Mr Baldock was already based.

They took the crucial decision that the City had been clamouring for and decreed that Sir Richard should split his job in two, becoming a non-executive chairman. If Mr Oates were going, they could not afford to dispense completely with the services of the man who had run the business for so long. But they did cut short his term of office: Sir Richard had been intent on staying until he hit 65 in 2002.

The next task for the emergency squad was to find a chief executive. The idea of bringing in an outsider was rapidly dismissed. Officially, they believed that a company like M&S should offer as good a pool of talent as anywhere outside. Unofficially, they knew that no outsider could be expected to work with Sir Richard: it would not have been possible for either party.

There then began the extraordinary task of weighing up the contenders for the job. Mr Baldock, Dame Stella and whoever else could be assembled interviewed every divisional director, flying them in from America and the Far East when necessary.

Mr Salsbury was considered the favourite from the start. His experience had taken him through many divisions of M&S, including merchandise and personnel. But there were challengers, including Chris Littmoden, currently based in the United States.

At lunchtime on Wednesday, the non-executives told the 48-year-old Mr Salsbury that they were recommending him for the job. A board meeting yesterday afternoon ratified that decision, and from that moment, the entire board were united behind their man. Any qualms they may have had about his ability to pioneeer change in the organisation or to stand up to his chairman were instantly buried. With the exception of the departing Mr Oates, directors at M&S have always adhered to the view that corporate responsibility is more binding that cabinet responsibility.

So yesterday morning, Peter Salsbury was introduced to the world as the new chief executive of Marks & Spencer. The world was unimpressed. But in the afternoon he was ushered into a room where 120 M&S executives awaited their new leader and greeted with a 2½ minute standing ovation.

Now Dame Stella and her colleagues will be monitoring his performance with the intensity of guardians of the national interest.



Shoppers at the M&S store at Marble Arch yesterday: Maureen Spencer, Dennis House, Jacqueline Billingsley and Gary Reeves

'The street cred image has gone too far'

By Susie Steiner

THERE was no shortage of advice for Marks & Spencer's new chief executive from shoppers at the store at Marble Arch yesterday.

Though business was brisk, customers criticised its clothing ranges, said its regional shops were badly stocked and that it was high time the retailer accepted credit cards. The group's attempts to keep its boardroom tussles a secret have largely failed. Most shoppers were well aware of the struggle at the top and and of the drop in profits.

Jacqueline Billingsley, of West Hampstead, northwest London, expressed the views of many when she said M&S's efforts to shake off its frumpy image had gone too far. "They have gone for street cred but I'm in my forties and there is nothing for people of my age group," she said.

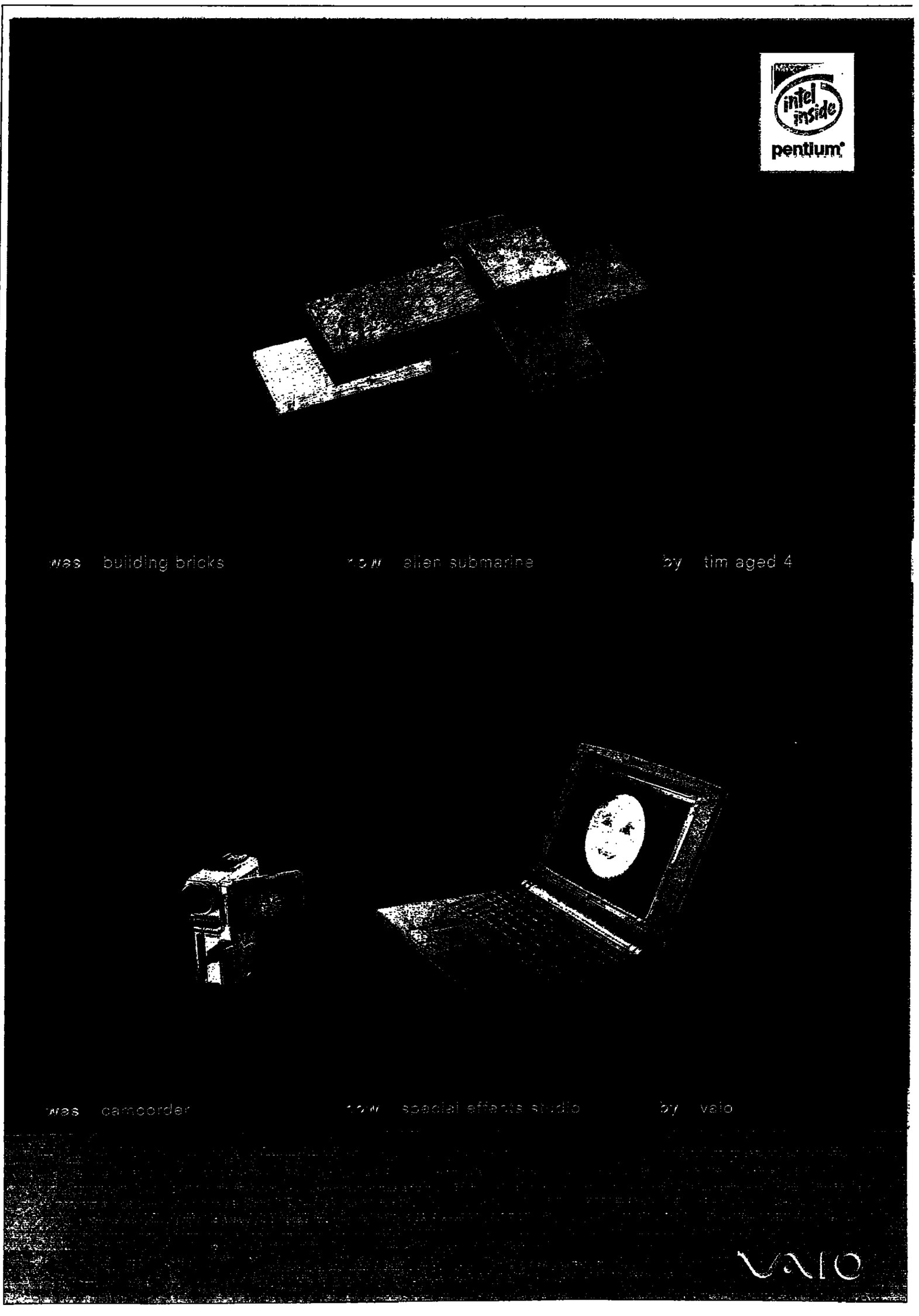
Pamela House, 65, of Guildford, Surrey, was similarly disappointed. "For my age group there has been absolutely nothing we can buy this year. They went from being really frumpy to being not bad. Now it's all too teenage. My friends and I like to be fashionable but a lot of the things we can't wear. The skirts they have don't go around middle-aged women's tummies."

Her husband, Dennis, 61, shops at the chain about once a month ("usually trailing behind my wife") and said regional stores were disappointing. "We live in Guildford and that store has definitely been demoted. We have to go to a bigger one to shop. They are in decline and cutting back, but they are putting pressure on the customer to travel to get to a decent store."

Gary Reeves, 35, of Docklands, East London, shops in M&S about once a week and said he appreciated the chain's policies. "They are number one in the high street — everyone in the street has got a green bag. But they have to get a handle on fashion, particularly in the regional stores. It's fine in Marble Arch, but go somewhere like Grantham and it's really poor."

Gerry Bradley, 27, of Beckenham, South London, said it was still "deeply uncool" to shop for clothes in Marks & Spencer. "It's a perception thing. It's an old man's shop. I wouldn't buy anything at M&S but my dad would have a great time." But he added: "The food is fantastic. We both work and the ready meals are fabulous."

Maureen Spencer, 61, of Woking, Surrey, praised the M&S Christmas pudding as unsurpassed, but was disappointed in the clothing. "We have bought nothing," she said. "They have gone too teenage, which is all wrong. I want a sweater that covers my backside and that keeps me warm. The clothes are no longer for the average person in the street."



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THE TIMES FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

Help pupils learn to read more, expand their minds, broaden horizons

BRITAIN'S biggest books giveaway is unveiled in *The Times* today. The Free Books for Schools promotion will give every school the chance to gain a share of the millions of books for children that will be available in the coming months.
The multimillion-pound initiative has been developed in support of the National Year of Reading, which runs to August next year. Its aim is simple: to provide a range of free, quality texts to encourage more pupils to read more books, thereby raising literacy in schools and expanding children's imaginations and horizons.
Anyone and everyone — parents, pupils, teachers, friends and relatives — can join in the scheme, simply by collecting tokens from *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and Walkers snacks.
There are more than 150 titles for schools to choose from, each one listed below. Each book requires either 100, 250 or 500 tokens. The books are suitable for ages 5 to 16 and are divided into approximate reading abilities from key stage 1 to key stage 4 of the national curriculum, and P1 to S5 in Scotland.
Participating schools can select their free books from the list and send off enough tokens for their order. Many of the titles can be ordered for as little as 100 tokens each.
Between January and April next year, the Free Books for Schools tokens will be found on packets of Walkers crisps, Walkers Lites, Quavers, Monster Munch, French Fries, Doritos and Cheetos. Tokens will also appear each day in *The Times* from January 4 and four tokens will be published in *The Sunday Times* each week from January 10. Tokens will also be printed in *The Sun* and the *News of the World*.
Schools with queries about the scheme can call a helpline on 0845 6040312 between 9am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday.


MIKE SCOTT/NTI

Good books can make learning fun or introduce children to big issues

An appointment with Dr Seuss

Hatted cats lead to a brave new world, writes **Sarah Johnson**

THERE are, believe me, people who married and had babies with the sole aim of having an excuse to read *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr Seuss again. Dr Seuss — his real name was Theodore Seuss Geisel — proved that a limited vocabulary need not mean a limited range of humour. His other book on the list, *Fox in Socks*, is a symphony of hilarious tongue twisters that is also a reading tool. My favourite is the "Tweetle Beetle Puddle Paddle Battle".

Especially popular with Mums is Joanna Harrison's *When Mum Turned Into A Monster*. Sam and his sister won't stop fighting, whingeing and messing up the house, which Mum is trying to tidy up for a visit from smart Aunt Jane. As Mum's patience wears thin, she grows green claws, a tail, a snout and scales: "I used to be a nice person," she moaned. "But all your mess and fighting, whingeing and yelling has turned me into A MONSTER!" Know the feeling?

The world of Judith Kerr's *Mog* books and of *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* is one of dream cosiness, a safeness that is still open to the surreal. Perhaps Kerr's childhood escape from Nazi Germany gave her a gift for pinpointing the magic of ordinary things — cats, supper, missing school because of a cold. Kerr's own wartime story is told in *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*.

War is an important theme on the list. Among the three books by Michael Morpurgo there are two tales of the First World War: *War Horse* and *The Butterfly Lion*. Books like Robert Westall's *Blitz* bring the Second World War to life.

Among the titles for older readers, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* gets more relevant each year. Its satire starts teenagers thinking about the problems facing their own generation: genetics, biotechnology and eugenics, free will and responsibility.

Other books will be less familiar, such as Marlene Fanta Shyer's *Welcome Home, Jellybean*, the unsentimental story of a family adjusting to life with a mentally handicapped daughter who was in institutions until the age of 13.

Rachel Anderson and Shelagh McNicholas' *Best Friends*, is a story told by Jessy, a Down's syndrome girl whose sister's friend makes fun of her. Hurt, Jessy unexpectedly finds her own best friend — a toddler to whom Jessy seems as grown up and impressive as any big girl. He values her friendship and makes her feel needed.

Alan Garner's *The Weirdstone of Brisingamen* and *Elidor* are part of the tradition rooted in English myths and legends, and Hilary McKay's exciting works, *The Amber Cat* and *The Exiles*, cater to young readers' love of carefree summer holiday adventures.

THE FULL LIST OF MORE THAN 150 GREAT TITLES

KEY STAGE 1 — EARLY PRIMARY SCHOOL

100 tokens each
Bears in the Night — by Stan and Jan Berenstain
Mrs Armitage on Wheels — by Quentin Blake
Nicky and the Twins: The Lost Rabbit — by Tony Bradman and Susan Winter
Foxy and His Naughty Little Sister — by Colin and Jacqui Hawkins
Catherine and the Lion — by Clare Jarrett
Fox in Socks — by Dr Seuss
The Glove Puppet Man — by John Yeoman and Emma Chichester Clark


Morris and the cat flap

LOWER KEY STAGE 2 — MID PRIMARY SCHOOL

100 tokens each
Paddington Abroad — by Michael Bond
Paddington Helps Out — by Michael Bond
Dinosaur Diller — by Henrietta Branford
Spacebaby — by Henrietta Branford
Our Field — by Bertie Doherty and Robin Bell Corfield
Morris and the Cat Flap — by Vivian French and Guy Parker-Rees
A Gooney Farm Story: Dog's Journey — by Gene Kemp
Albertine Goose-Queen — by Michael Morpurgo
The Butterfly Lion — by Michael Morpurgo
The Dancing Bear — by Michael Morpurgo
Messop's Last Chance — by Michael Morpurgo
The Enchanted Horse — by Magdalen Nabb
Whistling Jack — by Linda Newbery
The Littlest Dragon — by Margaret Ryan and Jamie Smith

250 tokens each
Bears on Wheels — by Stan and Jan Berenstain
Sunny — by Bertie Doherty and Keith Bowen
The Sea of Tranquility — by Mark Haddon and Christina Birmingham
Little Wolf Finding Howl — by Jonathan Langley
The Three Silly Goats Gruff — by Jonathan Langley
The Spy Dog Files — by Jonathan Langley
Sam's Duck — by Michael Morpurgo
Badger's Party — by Hiawyn Oram and Susan Varley
The Time Wizard Strikes Again — by Andrew Pratt
The Cat in the Hat — by Dr Seuss
Nick Wotts Story of Dialing Double — by Ian Whybrow
Lost Husband — by Nic Bishop
Lucy an Alphabet in Art — by Lucy Micklethwait
AUDIO BOOKS
The Enchanted Horse — by Magdalen Nabb

UPPER KEY STAGE 2 — PRIMARY SCHOOL

100 Tokens each
Best Friends — by Rachel Anderson and Shelagh McNicholas
The Moon of Gomrath — by Alan Garner
The Owl Service — by Alan Garner
Desperate for a Dog — by Rose Impey and Jolyne Knox
The Voyage of the Dawn Treader — by C S Lewis
Anastasia Again — by Lois Lowry
Anastasia Krupnik — by Lois Lowry
The Amber Cat — by Hilary McKay
Monty the Dog Who Wears Glasses — by Colin West
Blitz — by Robert Westall

250 tokens each
The Sea-babies and Other Magical Stories — Edited by Susan Dickinson
The Footpaths Mystery — by Andrew Dibdin
Sidney — by Nicholas Fisk
The Wanderings of Odysseus — by Alan Garner
The Time Travelling Cat — by Julia Jarman
The Patchwork Bear of Little Blue — by Gene Kemp
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe — by C S Lewis
The Magician's Nephew — by C S Lewis
The Silver Chair — by C S Lewis
Abomination Stone of the Gargoyle — by Gill Lewis
The Dollar Kid — by Philip Ridley
Family Remember Me Is That You — by Jean Ure
Skin of Deception — by Gill Lewis
Four Fabulous Fairy Tales — Four Fabulous Horror Tales — Ghosts and Ghouls of Britain — Fabulous Horses Tales — Shocking Ghost Stories
The Return of the Wolf
AUDIO BOOKS
The Wanderings of Odysseus — by Alan Garner

KEY STAGE 3 LOWER — SECONDARY SCHOOL

100 tokens each
The Snake-stone — by Bertie Doherty
Elidor — by Alan Garner
Sidney Meiton and Me — by Jean Ure

250 tokens each
Other Balls for Us to Kick — by Robert Cormier
Tough Luck — by Bertie Doherty
The Enemy Project — by Anne Fine (paperback)
The Woven Path — by Robin Jarvis
Just Friends — by Gene Kemp
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit — by Judith Kerr
The Third Class Genie — by Robert Leeson
The Haunting — by Robert Westall
The Machine Gunners — by Robert Westall
A Game of Dolphins — by Ann Turnbull
Black Harvest — by Ann Turnbull
The Time Travelling Cat — by Julia Jarman
The Patchwork Bear of Little Blue — by Gene Kemp
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe — by C S Lewis
The Magician's Nephew — by C S Lewis
The Silver Chair — by C S Lewis
The Voyage of the Dawn Treader — by C S Lewis
AUDIO BOOKS
The Indian in the Cupboard — by Lynne Reid Banks
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe — by C S Lewis


Romeo and Juliet

KEY STAGE 3/4

250 tokens each
Other Balls for Us to Kick — by Robert Cormier
Tough Luck — by Bertie Doherty
The Enemy Project — by Anne Fine (paperback)
The Woven Path — by Robin Jarvis
Just Friends — by Gene Kemp
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit — by Judith Kerr
The Third Class Genie — by Robert Leeson
The Haunting — by Robert Westall
The Machine Gunners — by Robert Westall
A Game of Dolphins — by Ann Turnbull
Black Harvest — by Ann Turnbull
The Time Travelling Cat — by Julia Jarman
The Patchwork Bear of Little Blue — by Gene Kemp
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe — by C S Lewis
The Magician's Nephew — by C S Lewis
The Silver Chair — by C S Lewis
The Voyage of the Dawn Treader — by C S Lewis
AUDIO BOOKS
The Indian in the Cupboard — by Lynne Reid Banks
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe — by C S Lewis
Abomination — by Gill Lewis
A Town Called Paddington — by Michael Bond
The Dollar Kid — by Philip Ridley
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe — by C S Lewis

KEY STAGE 4 — UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Fahrenheit 451 — by Ray Bradbury
In the Middle of the Night — by Robert Cormier

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THE TIMES FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

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From Fox in Socks to Shakespeare ... your chance to build a library

A shortage that tells own story

WITHOUT its own library or enough books, King's Road Primary School in Manchester is forced to walk its pupils in a crocodile up to the local public library to track down their favourite authors.

Pupils are keen to read and literacy schemes in the school have been an enormous success. All that is holding pupils back is a lack of resources.

Monica Galt, the head teacher, says pupils constantly ask for more titles. "We have pupil representatives who meet with teachers in a school council. They ask us every time if they can have more to read. They just eat the books up. We need so, so many more."

The school benefited from the two government handouts of £1,000 this year to spend on books, but pupil demand easily outstretches this. "We have 80 per cent ethnic-minority pupils. They have to learn English early and from scratch and, to do this, they need exciting and attractive books," Ms Galt said.

The school has already begun a "Reading Buddy" scheme in which younger pupils read to their senior counterparts and vice versa.

"Children love it. Encouraging them to read is no problem here. But having enough of the new books to keep their fascination alive often is," Ms Galt said.

The school also conducts book reviews, reading weeks and is following the National Year of Reading programme.

"If you can get them reading young, you can feed their imagination. To read is to give them access to the national curriculum and teach them independent learning which is fundamental to their future success in education," Ms Galt said.



PAUL COUSANS

Crocodile to the library: children from King's Road Primary School, in Old Trafford. The school cannot afford enough books of its own

Struggling schools set for reading bonanza

John O'Leary and **Victoria Fletcher** report on the difficulties facing under-resourced librarians

SHEILA RAISBECK, a school librarian, has first-hand experience of a school being held back by a shortage of books. Woodway Park School and Community College in Coventry failed its Ofsted inspection in January, and poor resourcing was high on the list of criticisms. Mrs Raisbeck said pupils and staff were desperate for new books to help to foster an interest in reading.

The school, which has 750 pupils and serves a deprived area of the city, has half the number of books recommended by the Government. Eleven-year-olds arriving there already have very low levels in reading, often equivalent to that of a seven-year-old, and the shortage makes it hard to raise standards.

The Ofsted inspectors noted the dire state of literary resources, stating: "There are shortages of resources, including textbooks. The school library is generally under-resourced with a very low ratio of books per pupil in comparison to the national average."

Mrs Raisbeck hopes that the Free Books for Schools scheme will largely solve the problem. The school has already made plans for a reading club, homework club and reading partnership scheme when the new books arrive.

"Our budget is stretched to the limit," Mrs Raisbeck said. "What we could get from this scheme would be wonderful. We could not only top up our textbooks but get more horror stories, which seems to be the stuff really capturing the children's imagination at the moment. Anything new, anything which is 'the latest' and is nicely illustrated is snapped up."

She added: "Our parents helped get a computer by collecting supermarket coupons. They often feel that these schemes are a small way they can make contributions to the school. It's a community activity. Even dining room assistants will tell their friends and neighbours to save tokens and pool them for the school. Everyone knows the situation we are in and how we have to change it."

Woodway Park's predicament is typical of many state schools. A study to be published next year will show that, on average, schools have less than two thirds of the books they need to deliver the national curriculum, in spite of millions of pounds of government money devoted to book-buying.

Researchers have found that 60 per cent of primary school children and more than half of those in secondary schools are having to share books in class. In many schools, the desire to equip libraries with the latest information technology is adding to the squeeze on budgets.

The Government is so concerned about the stock of books that it gave every state school £1,000 to buy books last spring. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, repeated the gesture in September to coincide with the start of the Year of Reading. However, surveys commissioned by publishers and librarians suggest the initiatives will still leave schools, particularly in the secondary sector, short of key texts.

Guidelines issued by the Library Association suggest that secondary schools need an average of 15 books per pupil to cover the national curriculum adequately. The association's last survey showed that the national average was only nine.

Trish Botten, its adviser on school libraries, said: "We are carrying out another survey this year, but it is unlikely that the position will have changed significantly. We are in the process of drawing up primary school guidelines and, although they have benefited more than secondary schools from the Government's initiatives, there is a serious shortfall there too."

Glenys Willars, who chairs the Library Association's school libraries group, added: "Obviously, £1,000 goes a lot further in a primary school than a secondary school. The government money has been very welcome, but our audits show that a substantial proportion of books in school libraries are more than 20 years old, so there is a lot of work to be done."

Michael Johnson, of Keele University, who has conducted a series of surveys on the availability of books in schools, said: "There has been a gradual drip away of funding for books since schools took control of their own budgets. Governors are anxious to keep class sizes as small as possible, and other areas feel the pressure."

Keele's latest survey of 8,000 pupils, conducted for the Educational Publishers' Council, showed that growing numbers were having to share "dog-eared and tatty" books. The last national survey by the Library Association showed repeated budget cuts threatening school library services. Several have closed in recent years, leaving schools without expert advice on purchasing and the renewal of stock.

Kathy Lemair, executive secretary of the School Libraries Association, whose own service in Oxfordshire closed last year, said: "One of my main concerns is that too many schools fail to recognise that books get out of date and need to be thrown away."

John Davies, the chief executive of the Educational Publishers' Council, said book-buying budgets had been under pressure for 25 years. "We are trying to convince ministers that they must keep up this level of support because they have a number of plans in the pipeline, such as the review of the national curriculum and the reform of sixth form qualifications, which will also require heavy spending on books."

Simon Jenkins, page 24
Leading article, page 25



He hath never fed of the dainties that are bred of a book; he hath not eat paper, as it were; he hath not drunk ink: his intellect is not replenished; he is only an animal, only sensible in duller parts.

William Shakespeare, Love's Labour Lost, 1595



Reading has meant a great deal to me and I am never far from a book. As far as I am concerned, you can never read too much.

Terry Venables, Former England manager

Reading maketh a full man.

Francis Bacon, 1597

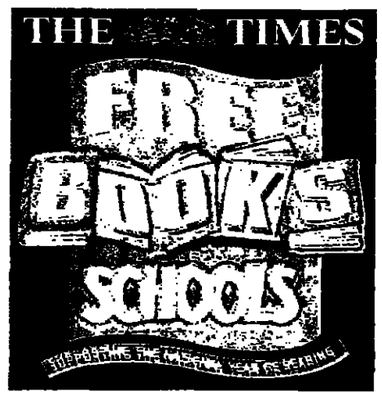


The best thing about books is that there are no bad actors. Books are a great form of escapism.

John Cleese (actor)

There has been no greater pleasure to me at home than reading books to and with my children.

Tony Blair



Blunkett welcomes campaign

DAVID BLUNKETT called upon parents, children and teachers to join the Free Books for Schools scheme to give classroom bookshelves the boost they need.

The Education Secretary, who has made higher literacy standards a priority, said: "I welcome this innovative and significant project. The National Year of Reading is designed to support the work of teachers in schools by involving the whole community in our drive to raise standards of literacy."

He added: "The Walkers/News International Free Books for Schools scheme is an excellent example of how business can get involved on a national scale. We are committed to raising standards of literacy and we are asking the nation to join this campaign. The Walkers/News International initiative will help encourage children, their friends and families to become even more involved in reading."

Professor Michael Barber, head of standards and effectiveness at the Department for Education, said: "The Walkers/News International reading promotion is just the kind of innovative partnership we are encouraging as part of the National Year of Reading — it will give many people the opportunity to help put more books into schools."

David Hart, leader of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The Walkers/News International reading promotion is the biggest of its type ever and will make a massive contribution to the number of new books for schools in the new academic year — without hitting overstretched budgets. With the right help from parents, millions of much needed free books will be enjoyed by pupils in our schools."

Schools that have registered for the scheme are delighted with the offer. Helen Yeoman, from Bodringallt Primary School, Mid-Glamorgan, said the school would use it to obtain books to appeal to boys. "We have found it much harder to get boys into reading. Books based around sport usually get their attention."

Jane Neill, the librarian at Cliftonville Middle School, Northampton, said pupils would take special interest in borrowing books they knew they had helped to buy. "Pupils always go for new books, new covers." The books would be "off the shelves in minutes especially if they helped collect for them", she said.

The enduring magic that lies behind the wardrobe

BY SARAH JOHNSON

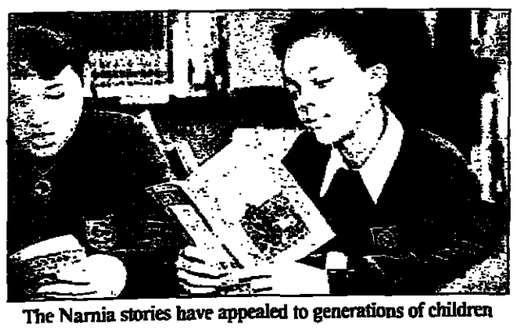
IT IS hard to imagine what children's literature — not to mention walk-in wardrobes — would be like without the Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis, whose centenary falls this weekend.

He used the idea of a parallel universe visited by boys and girls as an experiment in explaining difficult theological concepts to children: but the books have ended up being more influential than he could ever have imagined.

The appeal of the author, five of whose books are included in the Free Books for Schools scheme, was summed up by the ex-Spice Girl Geri Halliwell: "I fell in love with the magic land of Narnia and wanted to go there."

Lewis was born on November 29, 1898, and began writing the Narnia stories for his god-daughter half a century ago. They were published between 1950 and 1956 and have stirred the imaginations of successive generations. In April, on World Book Day, Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson named Lewis among their favourite childhood authors. Another who came under Lewis' spell was Liam Gallagher, the Oasis singer. He said: "The best book I ever read was *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, when I was ten. I love the idea of opening a cupboard door, you step inside and there's a lion and you're being chased through the snow."

Such is the continued fascination with Lewis's best-known children's book that the Royal Shakespeare Company has just begun a new stage adaptation.



The Narnia stories have appealed to generations of children

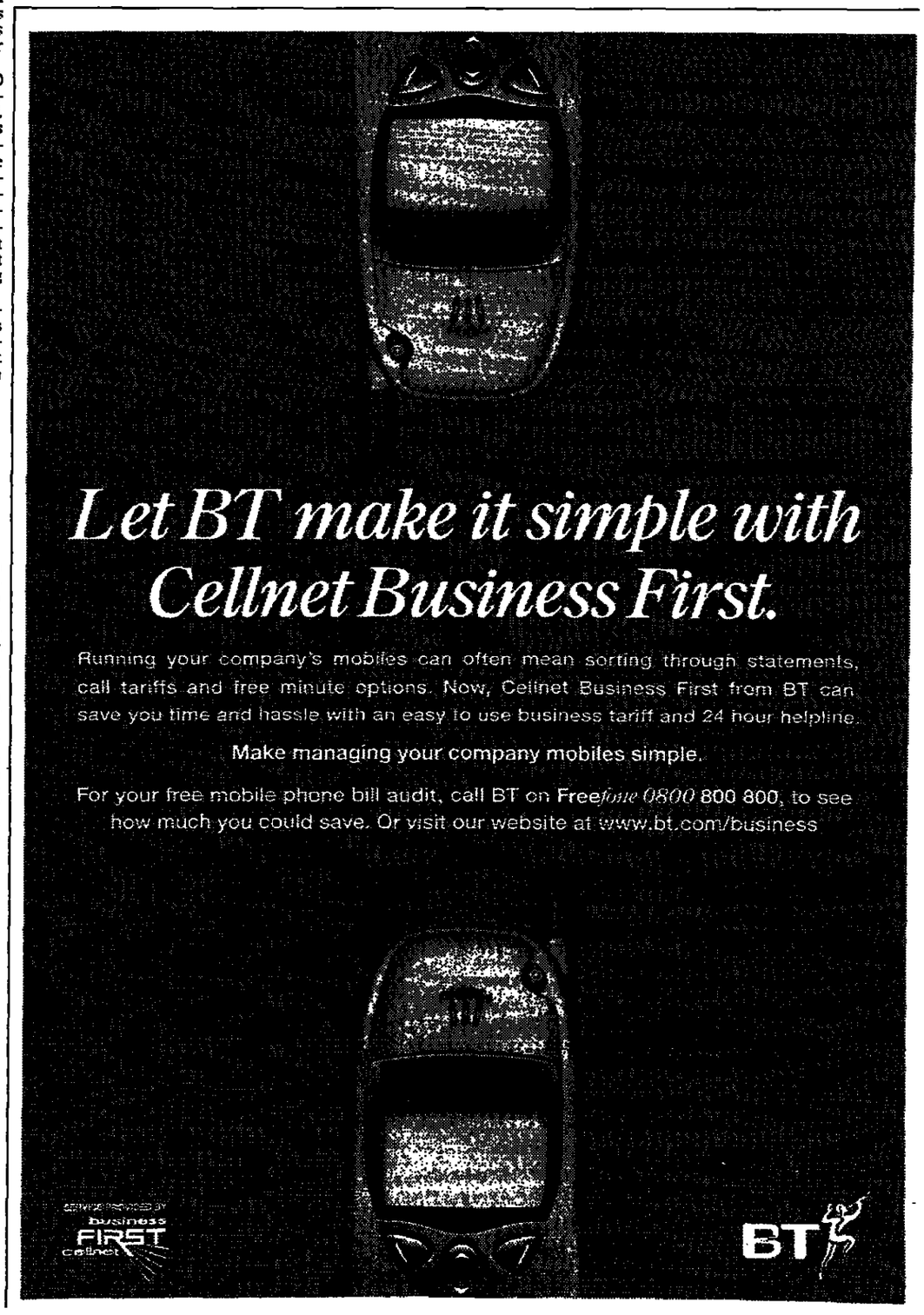
Narnia, the fantasy world Lewis created, is a temperate, maritime country, with gently rolling, wooded hills and rivers meandering through green valleys. Men live mainly in the pleasant market town of Beruna, leaving the countryside to talking animals, who are an old-fashioned English gentleman's idea of the perfect rural labouring class. To the north lies rugged moorland inhabited by giants; to the south, the mountainous Archenland resembles Wales. Further south there is a desert and the land of the Calormen, a cruel olive-skinned race with a despotic king and a hideous god, Tash.

Lewis's agenda was overtly Christian. He takes children with great skill through key aspects of Christian doctrine so that they rarely spot what is happening. Lewis later wrote that he saw the Narnia stories as an answer to the question: "What might Christ be like if there really were a world like Narnia and he chose to be incarnate and die and rise again in that world as he actually has done in ours?"

Children who are enraged at the torture of Aslan in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, then weep with joy when he comes alive again and redeems Narnia from eternal winter, are responding to the story of Christ's Passion. By transferring it to another universe, Lewis freed children to feel emotions that they may not have experienced at Sunday school.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

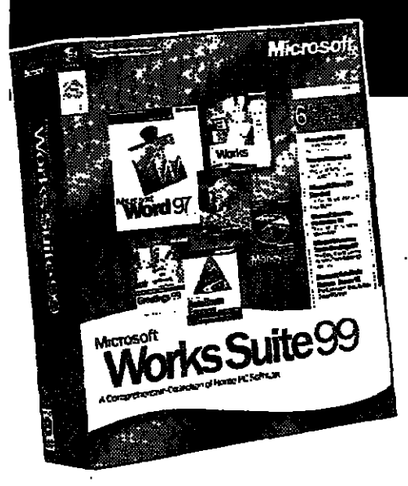
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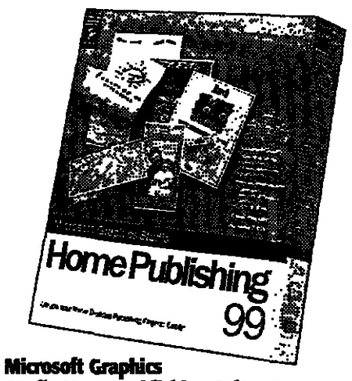
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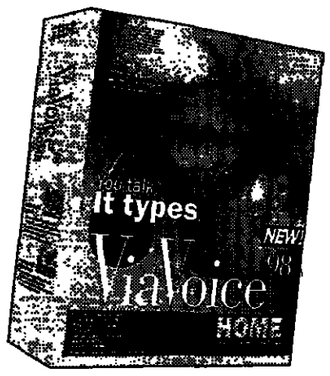
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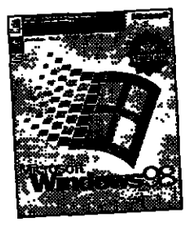
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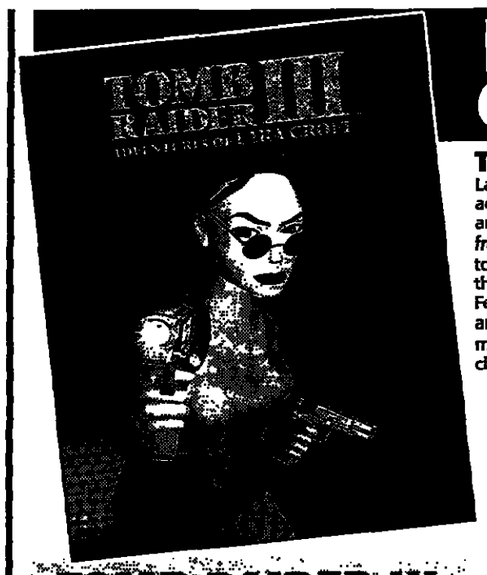


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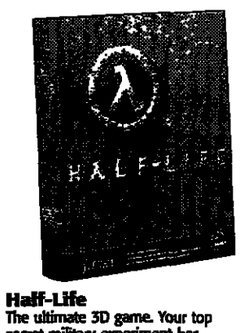
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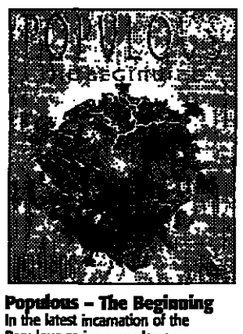


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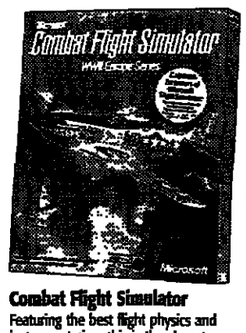
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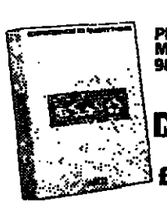
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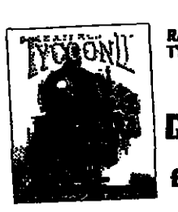
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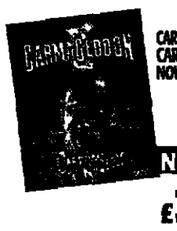
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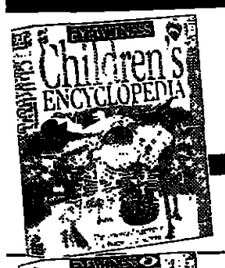


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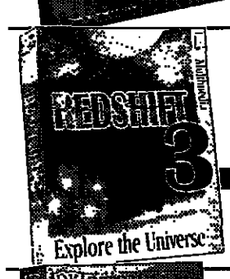
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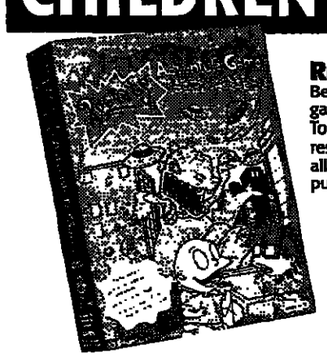
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39 radical steps to improving health of poor

Uncosted plans by inquiry team call for massive redistribution of wealth, reports **Ian Murray**

A RADICAL, uncosted plan to close the health gap between the rich and poor by eliminating poverty has been put forward by an independent inquiry set up 16 months ago by the Government.

Its 39-step cure for the social ills that mean the poor generally lead unhealthy, shorter lives, relies on a wholesale redistribution of wealth.

Among the recommendations are higher benefits and pensions, free nicotine patches, school meals and fresh fruit, fluoridation, as well as better housing and education. More training, less unemployment and improved public transport are also on the list as is the reform of the common agricultural policy and all are regarded as essential to end the inequalities in health which mean the poor can expect to live five years less than the rich.

The inquiry team, chaired by the former Chief Medical Officer, Sir Donald Acheson, makes no recommendations about how the reforms are to be funded but insists that its entire plan of 39 major recommendations and 35 minor ones must be carried out if it is to stand any chance of success.

"We believe that success will only come if implementation is across the entire board," Sir Donald said. "Cherry picking one or two of the sexy ones like nicotine replacement or fluoridation would make a difference but unless one resources them all one won't achieve much. This report goes right across Whitehall and most of the great departments of state will have to make major policy changes if much is to happen."

Sir Donald said that his team was composed entirely of scientists and did not include an economist so nothing had been costed. "We haven't looked at cost effectiveness," he said. "Affordability is not a matter for scientists but politicians and we therefore await what the Government is going to do. The principle of equity underlies this report. It is a principle that transcends party politics."

To end inequality all social policies in future should be evaluated in terms of their impact on health and should be drawn up in order to minimise any bias. Action was also needed to reduce income inequalities and improve the living standards of poor households.

Sir Donald said that early indications were that the Government was prepared to follow the recommendations and was in fact already implementing some of them. "The advice we have received is that the inequalities are so great that a sustained effort will be necessary over ten years to achieve anything like what we are hoping for," he said.

Because the health of mothers was so crucial to the health of future generations, the highest possible priority had to be given to improving conditions for them says the report.

The only recommendation about taxation the report makes is for swingeing increases in the amount levied on tobacco and it cites international research showing that young people will not start smoking if it is too expensive.

Underlining that Income Support fails to provide an adequate standard of living — even without taking into account the cost of tobacco — the report said: "Not surprisingly, therefore, low income households where the parents smoke are much more likely to be lacking basic amenities, including food, shoes and coats than non-smoking parents on Income Support."

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, gave a warm welcome to the report, saying: "Poverty is a principal source of ill health. Poor people are ill more often and die sooner."

Anna Coote, director of the public health programme for the King's Fund, the independent healthcare think tank, said the report gave incontrovertible evidence that people paid the price of poverty with their lives. "The real test of the Government's commitment to tackling health inequalities is whether it can now ensure policies and practices are clearly focused, vigorously pursued and effectively co-ordinated," she said.


Tony Stone

Future generations will benefit if efforts to close the health gap now are successful

Well-fed babies grow up to be more intelligent

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

BABIES are more likely to be clever if they are fed well in their first few weeks, according to new research. The first big study of premature babies' feeding patterns found that those not given food with an enriched formula were relatively backward by the time they were seven or eight.

A team led by Alan Lucas, of the Medical Research Council's childhood nutrition centre, at the Institute of Child Health followed what happened to 360 premature babies born in the developed world over a 16-year period.

Professor Lucas, whose findings are published today in the *British Medical Journal*, found evidence that nutrition in early life has an important impact on the development of the brain.

Babies who were given a standard pre-term formula milk, rather than an enriched feed, had reduced verbal IQ scores when they started school. This was particularly evident in boys. Cerebral palsy was also more prevalent in infants fed standard formula milk. The researchers say that under-nutrition did not seem to cause this condition, but it may prevent the brain compensating for an adverse event that can cause the disorder, such as a period of inadequate oxygen supply.

Premature babies are now normally given an enriched feed, containing extra protein, vitamins and minerals, but this was not the case 16 years ago, when the study began.

Thirty-one per cent of those given the standard formula had a low verbal IQ by the time they were seven or eight, compared with 14 per cent of those given the enriched formula. Among boys, 47 per cent given the standard formula had lower IQs, compared with 13 per cent given the enriched formula.

Professor Lucas said that his group and others around the world were now looking at the effect of nutrition on full-term babies. Data on this would be published over the next four or five years.

Scientist who is stickler for truth

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent


Acheson: headed team set up by Frank Dobson

THE man who led the inquiry into inequalities in health, Sir Donald Acheson, adheres to the rigorous and exhaustive methods of the scientist.

As a scientist, too, he has not liked getting involved in politics, although his appointment as Chief Medical Officer thrust him into the limelight. "I feel I'm putting my reputation on the line in public quite frequently in this job," he remarked. "If my scientific credibility goes, nobody will believe me so I must satisfy myself on the evidence of every issue."

Sir Donald, who retired as Chief Medical Officer in 1991, was somewhat relieved to hear that the inquiry team he had envisaged was too large; it meant he was able to dispense with the economist and produce a report on reducing health inequalities that assumed a world in which financial restraints played no part.

Born in Belfast in 1926 to a GP, Sir Donald became professor of clinical epidemiology and foundation dean of the medical school at Southampton University in 1968. He was made head of the Medical Research Council's environmental epidemiology unit, and his report on the risks posed by asbestos led to a ban on imports and to strict safety standards.

As chairman of a study group on primary care in inner London in 1981 he came up with 115 recommendations, including retirement of doctors at 65 and new standards for community nursing. He was the obvious choice as Chief Medical Officer two years later, and quickly became a feared and respected figure in Whitehall. Normally soft-spoken, he proved capable of grilling civil servants ruthlessly to find out the facts.

He persuaded the then Government to double the amount of money available for treating Aids and drew up guidelines for treating patients which remain the gold standard.

His style is to mix science with passion. "The key thing is deciding what you want done. It's essential to get the main issues to the top of the pile and not let the details engulf you."

☐ *Independent Inquiry into Inequalities in Health* (Stationery Office; £19.50)

£5m programme to find Aids vaccine

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

OXFORD scientists are to develop an Aids vaccine in the largest privately funded Aids research programme.

Professor Andrew McMichael, of Oxford University, leads one of the first two projects selected by the International Aids Vaccine Initiative in a £5.7 million programme started in London yesterday.

The Oxford team will collaborate with the University of Nairobi to produce a vaccine effective against the strain of HIV that is endemic in Africa. A second team, Alpha Vax Human Vaccines Inc. of Durham, North Carolina, and the University of Cape Town, which is taking a different approach, is also receiving backing.

Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, said yesterday that an Aids vaccine was vital to stem the growth of the disease. Despite nearly 20 years of research, only one vaccine is in trials and, even if it proves effective, it will work only against the HIV strain found in America and Europe, where the death toll is far lower than in Africa.

The aim of the Oxford virus is not to stimulate antibodies against HIV, but to enlist a second anti-viral mechanism, killer T-cells. These are cells that home in on virus-infected cells and kill them.

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Minister pledges fair deal for leaseholders

Reforms should make it easier for flat owners to buy freeholds and run buildings, writes **Rachel Kelly**

A COMPREHENSIVE overhaul of the leasehold system in England and Wales was announced yesterday by Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, with a consultation paper proposing a fairer deal for the country's two million leaseholders.

New rights would allow flat owners to take over the management of their blocks without having to persuade a court that the landlord is incompetent, negligent or dishonest. Leasehold groups estimate that there are tens of thousands of disputes over decorating and repair costs each year.

Other reforms would make it easier for flat owners to buy their freehold. In future, those living in blocks of flats above shops would be able to buy the freehold if the flats constitute just 75 per cent of the building, instead of the 90 per cent currently required. At present, only buildings in which there are at least nine storeys of residential property above one of commercial property qualify, but under the new proposals, the far more common buildings which have three or four storeys of residential flats above a shop would qualify. Ms Amstrong said: "The leasehold system is flawed to its roots and we are committed to reform it. Previous attempts have just been tinkering with the odd element. They have not worked. Abuses still flourish, causing misery and frustration to many leaseholders."

Ms Armstrong said that the Government was committed to finding time within the life of the current parliament to implement the long-awaited reforms, which were a manifesto commitment.

They would also see stricter control of agents employed by landlords to manage property, who can often be custodians of large sums but need no professional qualifications. If agents did not produce satisfactory self-regulatory systems, Ms Armstrong said, the Government would consider setting up a licensing system.

The Government is also to seek ways of curbing the ability of landlords to threaten to take possession of leasehold flats over small breaches of a lease, such as a minor delay in paying ground rent. Such threats of "forfeiture" can result in people handing over large sums to avoid legal action.



Armstrong: she plans to curb threats of forfeiture

Other proposals to make it easier for leaseholders to buy freeholds include relaxing the current residence test. Under existing rules, half of any group of leaseholders seeking to buy their freehold must prove that the property had been their main home for the previous 12 months, but under the proposed reforms they would need only to prove that it had been their main home from the time that they served notice to their landlord that they wished to enfranchise.

Nick Raynsford, the junior housing minister, said: "Our overall objective is to provide leaseholders with the opportunity to reap the full benefits of owner occupation and to have control over the way in which their homes are managed."

Peter Haler, of the Leasehold Advisory Service, which advises both leaseholders and freeholders, said: "We are delighted that tenants will have the right to manage their flats although we are worried how it will work. There needs to be a very clear set of rules or else tenants will be at each other's throats."

Mr Haler also welcomed the plans to curb the threat of forfeiture, but said that those leaseholders whose landlords were in the public sector had been excluded from the right to manage their blocks.

"Some of the worst problems occur in the public sector," Mr Haler said. "There is an assumption that public sector landlords are good blokes, but many are inefficent and we constantly have cases of leaseholders having problems with their service charges."

Richard Lambert, of the British Property Federation, which represents landlords including the Grosvenor Estate, welcomed the proposals and said that landlords too would benefit from a fairer and less complicated system.

"We wish for the abuses of the bad landlords to be curbed without putting too much of a burden on the reputable landlords," he said.



Anna Stothard unveiling the Millennium Sculpture

A millennium sculpture for changing times

By Alan Hamilton

WHEN *The Times* first saw the light of day, the millennium was still 215 years away. We are still here, and yesterday, with only 400 days left, we unveiled our own countdown to the new century.

The Times Millennium Sculpture is a dramatic addition to one of the capital's busiest junctions, where Earl's Court Road meets the Cromwell Road on its way to Heathrow airport and the West. It is a celebration both of changing times and of unchanging time.

Six metres high and of polished steel, the sculpture contains two millennium countdown clocks and an electronic display carrying up-to-the-minute headlines from *The Times* website.

Anna Stothard, 15, daughter of the Editor of *The Times*, pulled a cord to reveal the sculpture and to release 400 silver balloons. "I thought it should be unveiled by someone with a longer commitment to the new millennium than a 47-year old editor," her father, Peter Stothard, said. Anna thought the millennium "an opportunity to shed all the worst of the past and find the best of the future".

The sculpture is intended to mirror the evolving newspaper. "The story of the past five years has been of changing times. That is the message of this newspaper for the new millennium, and the sculpture is a reflection of that," Mr Stothard said.

Cristina Garcia, the Spanish-born architect who designed the sculpture for the 4i group, said that it celebrated the millennium in a way that recognised the history of time, and the importance of the Greenwich Meridian from which all time and distance are measured. A vertical mast representing Longitude 0 bisects two segments of the globe, suggesting the 24 time zones around the world.

Once the countdown clocks reach zero, they will revert to conventional tellers of time, and the sculpture, engineered by the Atelier One company, will remain in place throughout 2000.

Counting down to the millennium can be an inexact science. Another countdown clock in Piccadilly Circus was seen earlier this week to be wrong by four days. There is also the small matter of the entire world celebrating the new century a year too early. But public opinion will not be shaken from its desire to celebrate the round number, and blow the mathematical niceties.

Only 399 days to go.

Asthma mites found in cereals

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

MITES that can trigger asthma and other allergies have been found in a wide range of breakfast cereals and other foods.

Scientists working for the Ministry of Agriculture detected the moist, soft-bodied bugs, less than half a millimetre long, in a fifth of cereal-based products on sale in England and Wales. The 567 samples that were analysed included breakfast cereals, baby food, biscuits, bread, cakes and flour.

Twenty-one per cent of the samples contained mites. The most frequently infested items were flour (28 per cent), bread (25 per cent), biscuits (20 per cent) and cereals (19 per cent).

Ken Wildey, of the Central Science Laboratory at York, who led the research, said: "We do not yet know whether eating these small amounts has any health implications."

Charlotte's mother in court

MICHELLE Jones, 24, was remanded in custody by Warrington magistrates yesterday accused of abandoning her three-year-old daughter, Charlotte, and causing her grievous bodily harm with intent. Later Charlotte left hospital in the care of social services staff after receiving treatment for mild hypothermia. She was found in woods on Tuesday after a 30-hour disappearance.

CORRECTIONS

A report (November 25) headed "'Slave hotel' of Saudi prince angers Egypt", about Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz, was illustrated by a photograph of a man said to be Prince Turki. In fact, it was Prince Torki Mohammed bin Saud al-Kabir, who is not in any way involved with the activities of Prince Turki. We apologise for the embarrassment caused to Prince Torki.

☐ DNA Films asks us to make clear that Vinnie Jones has not been cast for the film *Mike Bassett: England Manager* (report, November 24).

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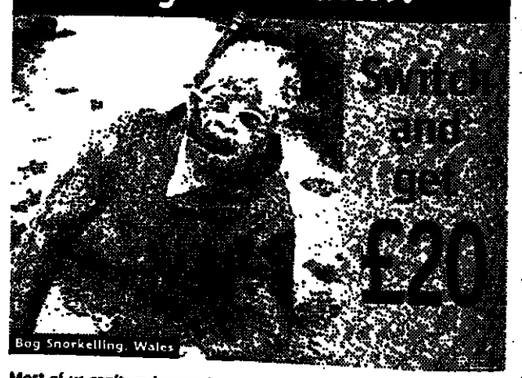
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Judge in fraud case loses claim for costs

Court rules that, though not proven guilty, he was not a successful defendant, reports Tim Jones

A JUDGE who escaped a second fraud trial after doctors said the ordeal could drive him to suicide has failed in his unprecedented attempt to have his legal costs refunded.

Judge Richard Gee's application is believed to be the first time a defendant has applied for his costs without having first been shown to be innocent.

Giving her ruling, Mrs Justice Steel said that, although she had kept in mind the presumption that an accused person was innocent until proven guilty, the first trial of Judge Gee had been inconclusive.

Mrs Justice Steel said: "Although Mr Gee must be presumed innocent, he could not be said to be a successful defendant."

It had never been submitted, she said, that the evidence against the judge had been insufficient to warrant a trial or to support the charges made.

She added: "Although it cannot be said he brought suspicion on himself or misled the prosecution, there was a clear case for him to answer and, but for his ill health, the law would have taken its normal course and there would have been a retrial. The prosecution has not altered its stance on that."

Judge Gee's first trial, which lasted for three months and is estimated to have cost £3 million, ended when a jury, after deliberating for 13 days, failed to reach a verdict.

The judge, who has been receiving his full salary of £87,000 a year since his arrest three years ago, had been hoping to win back more than £70,000 he contributed towards his defence in the £1 million mortgage fraud case during which he denied two charges of conspiracy to obtain services by deception.



Judge Richard Gee: now negotiating his pension

The prosecution had claimed that, while acting as a solicitor in the 1980s, he had been involved in a swindle involving mortgages being obtained at low residential interest rates. The properties were then let out for business use at a profit.

At the time of the alleged fraud, the judge was acting as a solicitor while also sitting as a recorder. He was apppointed a full-time judge in 1991.

Last month John Morris, QC, the Attorney-General, caused controversy when, after studying medical evidence, he employed a rarely used procedure to end the case. Judge Gee, who is married to the New York socialite Marilyn Gross and has at least two homes, in London and New York, was not in the Old Bailey yesterday to hear he had lost.

Mrs Justice Steel said that the Attorney-General had considered Judge Gee's health and noted that he had not personally benefited from the alleged fraud. She said it was now clear that the case would not be reopened.

Judge Gee is now believed to be negotiating to gain early retirement with a non-contributary pension fund thought to be in the region of £500,000.



BARRY BATCHELOR

Gary Glitter outside court yesterday after being committed to stand trial

Glitter to be tried on sex charges

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE pop star Gary Glitter was committed to stand trial yesterday on a series of child sex and pornography charges.

Glitter, 54, has been charged under his real name, Paul Gadd, of making 50 indecent photographs of children, and with 50 alternative counts of possessing indecent photographs of children. He faces a further four charges of indecent assault involving a young girl, and four other charges alleging serious sexual offences involving a girl. The sex allegations date back as far as 1975.

The "glam rock" star arrived at North Avon Magistrates' Court, at Yate, near Bristol, in a black leather coat over a velvet suit. The stipendiary magistrate, Tim Workman, committed him to stand trial at Bristol Crown Court, where a preliminary hearing will be held on January 18. Reporting restrictions were not lifted and Glitter was released on bail.

Friend is cleared of balcony killing

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE family of a man killed in a fall from a hotel balcony yesterday criticised an attempt to prosecute his best friend over the death.

Jamie Morgan, 22, died in Ibiza last year on the first full day of his Club 18-30 holiday. Despite evidence from other friends of the dead man that the fall was an accident, police believed a claim by another English holidaymaker that he had seen 24-year-old Jason Barrow push him to his death.

Barrow was arrested on suspicion of murder and later charged with manslaughter.

Yesterday at Exeter Crown Court, the judge found Mr Barrow not guilty, having been told that the witness who claimed to have seen him push the dead man had been in a psychiatric hospital since the incident, and was medically unfit to testify.

After the hearing, Mr Morgan's mother, Susan Godfrey, 48, from Barnstaple, Devon, said: "It was a tragic accident. We were more shocked when Jason was charged with pushing him. He is the least likely person to be involved. She added: "We are fairly sure the boys had been drinking quite a lot."

Gardener died after wasp sting on neck

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A KEEN gardener died after being stung on the neck by a wasp as he cut his lawn, an inquest in Devon was told.

George Duffell, 85, who knew he was allergic to insect stings, had tried to give himself an injection of antidote but died within minutes with the syringe still in his hand.

Richard van Oppen, the East Devon Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death on the pensioner from Tiverton, describing it as a three million-to-one chance.

After the hearing at Cullompton, Mr Duffell's son, Stephen, said: "He was cutting the grass when he was stung by a wasp. He would have been dead in five minutes. He literally had just enough time to get into the house and push the care home alarm. There was a wasp's nest in the garden and he was partially sighted and probably did not know it was there. We found a wasp on his cardigan."

His father had been stung before some years ago and had nearly died, and had been given an adrenalin syringe to use if he was stung again. Mr Duffell died from asphixia because the sting caused a sudden swelling in his throat.

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Wanted: aide who works faster than a speeding bullet

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR is about to lose one of his closest aides and is struggling to find a replacement willing to step on to the onerous treadmill of life inside his private office.

John Holmes, 47, the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary, may not be a household name but he has become indispensable to Mr Blair. He works so hard — a regular 14 to 17-hour day — ensuring that Downing Street is keeping a firm grip on what Whitehall is doing that some officials believe that his duties should be split between two senior staff.

The work pressures generally in the private office have become so intense that Mr Blair and officials have even discussed a possible restructuring of 10 Downing Street to accommodate more staff.

The hallmark of Mr Blair's administration is his determination to keep check on the rest of Whitehall; his staff have so many responsibilities that many are working at breaking-point. Critics say this is caused by Mr Blair's "control-freak" instinct.

Word about the intense hours inside No 10 has spread. One official approached for the post turned it down because he did not want to spend so much time away from his young family.

Mr Blair is considering how he can fill the vacuum that will be left by Mr Holmes when he departs at the end of next month to become Ambassador to Portugal. The two men have developed such a close relationship that No 10 insiders describe Mr Holmes as Mr Blair's "security blanket".

For Mr Holmes, who came to No 10 three years ago as John Major's foreign affairs adviser, has been able to merge his key co-ordinating and management role with his pragmatic approach to advice on foreign policy from Europe to Iraq and Ireland.

Jeremy Heywood, a high-flyer in the Treasury who is in his mid-30s, and who has been acting as Mr Blair's economic and domestic policy secretary, is to take on the main PPS role. He is described by colleagues as a workaholic, but even so some of his administrative duties could go to a new foreign affairs specialist.

Denis Kavanagh of Liverpool University, the co-author with Anthony Seldon of a new book on Downing Street, said: "You really have to be something of a superman to be in Blair's private office." He believes Mr Blair is determined to keep to the style he developed in Opposition — a small, personal staff who can deliver, and officials and political appointees who work as a team.

He also dubs it "the communicating premiership" and likens it to the presidential styles of Clinton and Reagan. Mr Blair likes his own personal media team and is determined the government message is properly communicated even if staff have to rewrite announcements from all departments. The Foreign Office, however, is determined to replace Mr Holmes with one of its own high-flyers. Among possible names being touted are Nigel Sheinwald, 46, who has strong links with No 10 as head of the Foreign Office news department. He was promoted six months ago to become director of the Europe department and is not expecting another move so soon.

Another possibility is John Sawers, 43, who was private secretary to Malcolm Rifkind, the former Tory Foreign Secretary, and is expected to return to London from Washington.

Matthew Kirk, 39, who headed the EC Presidency unit, could also be in the running for the post. He moved to the European Secretariat at the Cabinet Office in July but could easily shift into Downing Street.

Leading article, page 25



CRISPIN RODWELL

Me and my shadow: John Holmes with Mr Blair in Northern Ireland yesterday

Dedicated to a life in shadows

BY GEORGE BRIDGES

JOHN HOLMES is unknown to all but a handful of political junkies. Quiet and discreet, he has deftly preserved his anonymity as the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary, and is only seen when he leaves No 10 behind the Prime Minister to be swept away to the Commons or a foreign summit.

Mr Holmes's job sounds enviable. His office adjoins the Cabinet Room, his in-tray is crammed with confidential documents, and on his desk sits the hotline to the White House. He advises Tony Blair on Iraq, Northern Ireland, interest rates and the colour of the prime ministerial tie while juggling telephone calls to and from world leaders, senior politicians and civil servants. And to his wife, to inform her that he won't be home for supper. The Principal Private Secretary must become a stranger to his family, addicted to coffee and adrenalin, and lose sleep and hair in equal amounts.

Mr Holmes is the last senior civil servant inside No 10. He also served John Major, and his success at making the transition between regimes reflects how indispensable he is, especially on Europe and Ulster. As the Prime Minister's brain on these issues, he is never able to escape the reach of the No 10 switchboard. Whenever the Prime Minister wants his PPS, "Switch" will find him.

Mr Holmes has always worn this leash with good humour. Twice a week, John Major's political staff and private secretaries had lunch in No 10's small dining room before Prime Minister's Questions. The phone would often ring as lunch began, usually with a request for Mr Holmes to answer a Prime Ministerial query. Up he would get, waving goodbye to the only food he would see for 14 hours.

On the rare occasions that he was able to eat more than a mouthful, he never lapsed into indiscretion. Not once did he let slip a piece of gossip about who said what to whom in the margins of a summit, no complaint about long hours, and no criticism of any aspect of government policy.

A consummate civil servant, a cool head under fire and a tireless worker, Mr Holmes is owed a debt of gratitude by two Prime Ministers.

☐ *George Bridges was assistant political secretary to John Major from 1994 to 1997.*

Brown keeps his credit rating as best Chancellor

BY PETER RIDDELL

GORDON BROWN remains the most highly rated Chancellor of the Exchequer for more than 20 years, despite increased public worries about the economic downturn, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

Forty-five per cent of the public are satisfied with the way he is doing his job, with 29 per cent dissatisfied. Although down on his earlier ratings — notably the 56 to 24 per cent balance in his favour after the March Budget — this is the highest rating for any Chancellor since Denis Healey in 1978.

Mr Brown retains favourable ratings among the middle classes, the better-off and those living in the South, suggesting that new Labour's appeal to these groups does not just depend on Tony Blair.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that the increased gloom about the economy has nonetheless started to take the gloss off the Government's economic ratings. But the public remains confident that "in the long term the Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy". Some 46 per cent still agree, with 33 per cent disagreeing. This is down from the post-election peak of 57 to 24 per cent, but is still the best rating since the "Lawson boom" peaked in spring 1988.

Moreover, 50 per cent of the public still think the Government is doing a good job at managing the economy, down from 60 per cent last April. The number thinking it is doing a bad job has risen from just 24 to 29 per cent.

Similarly, there has so far been little change in the number thinking that the Government is doing a good job in handling taxation and public expenditure, at 44 per cent, with 36 per cent disagreeing.

The main shift has been in the public's view of the Government's record in keeping unemployment down, where the number thinking it is doing a good job has dropped from 55 to 43 per cent since April, while the proportion thinking it is doing a bad job is up from 23 to 36 per cent.

☐ *MORI interviewed 990 adults between November 20 and 23.*

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On the rare occasions that he was able to eat more than a mouthful, he never lapsed into indiscretion. Not once did he let slip a piece of gossip about who said what to whom in the margins of a summit, a complaint about food, or no criticism of any of Government policy. Cabinet Secretary, civil servants, head under the Prime Minister, Mr Holmes was a cleft of granite. Prime Ministers come and Prime Ministers go, but Bridges was constant, subject only to the

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Devolution 'may break Union'

MPs' leaked report warns of Scots independence, writes Shirley English

A LABOUR-dominated select committee has given warning that devolution could lead to full independence for Scotland. The leaked report said that the home-rule package was "conceived piecemeal" and "in haste".

In a blow to Tony Blair and Donald Dewar, who have stressed that Scotland and England are "stronger together, weaker apart", the confidential 30-page document said that devolution could lead to serious conflict between Edinburgh and Westminster. It said that it would be hard to prevent the Scottish parliament from holding a referendum on independence, and that the stage would then be set for a "direct clash between what is the English doctrine of the sovereignty of Parliament and the Scottish doctrine of the sovereignty of the people".

Last night, the Scottish Secretary said that the report by the Commons Scottish Affairs Select Committee — which was leaked to a Scottish newspaper — had been selectively quoted "to make a headline". He added that several members of the committee had said that they did not recognise the media version.

The report highlighted three main areas of potential conflict: Scotland's reliance on Westminster for money; the limited nature of the Holyrood parliament's powers; and the failure to give England similar control over its own affairs. It stated that those strains could "cause the settlement to break down" and that "it is permissible to ask if it would matter, otherwise than sentimentally to some, if the UK were to break up".

Seven of the 11 committee members are Labour MPs, and the report is the first real indication that a number of them are worried that home rule could wreck the Union. The report said that any attempt by the UK Parliament to reduce the Scottish budget would "obviously be very bitterly resented in Scotland and might encourage, or be used to encourage, further movement towards independence".

It added: "The devolution package is intended to be a settlement. The Government proposes that it will satisfy the legitimate demand of Scots [and other minority nations] and so preserve the unity of the UK. If it does not do this, if the UK breaks up, it will have failed."

Of particular concern is the failure to give England more control over its affairs while granting Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland greater autonomy. This, the report said could lead to an English nationalist backlash which "might be hijacked by ugly forces".

Last night Mr Dewar said: "This is a balanced report drawn up in the context of strong support for devolution, set against a background of a huge vote for devolution for the Scottish parliament."

The Scottish National Party said that it would be interesting to see to what extent the new Labour "control freaks" would try to rewrite the report.

GAIL PRENTICE/NEWSFLASH



Donald Dewar: played down select committee concern of a breakaway and an English nationalist backlash

Blair decides to court Wales

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

TONY BLAIR will today launch a strategy to bring Wales in from the cold and promote stronger links between the Welsh Office and other government departments.

The U-turn, which follows the resignation last month of Ron Davies, the former Welsh Secretary, will be on display today when, after a gap of 15 months without an engagement in the Principality, Mr Blair visits the South Wales valleys.

Stung by accusations that he is dropping in for political expedience to bolster the credentials of Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, for the job of First Secretary of the Welsh assembly, Downing Street last night disclosed that Mr Blair would also be meeting Rhodri Morgan, the Labour MP who has widespread Labour grassroots support to lead the Welsh Labour party.

He is also to meet the Welsh Labour party executive and Labour candidates for the assembly.

The visit, however, coincides with a new strategy to bolster the influence of the Welsh Office inside Whitehall. The department is to have a stronger voice and is to take a greater role in the cross-government approach towards national issues.

The new Welsh strategy was discussed at meeting this week between Mr Michael and Lord Falconer of Thoroton, QC, Minister for the Cabinet Office.

One Whitehall source likened the Blair U-turn on Wales to the Government's approach to Brussels after the defeat of the Conservative administration. "In the past, officials from the Welsh Office turned up at meetings if they thought they were going to lose out on something. They rarely pitched in on policy."

The new strategy is also being seen as a response by ministers to the narrow vote in favour of devolution by the Welsh people in last year's referendum. Mr Blair now wishes to make clear that the Government has no intention of allowing the Welsh to follow any separatist path and that the Welsh Office should play a full role in delivering the Government's programme.

Do we have the constitution to stand reform?



British politicians instinctively dislike looking at the big picture. It may be our pragmatic, empiricist tradition, as opposed to Continental idealism. For instance, the many strands of constitutional reform are viewed separately, not as a whole.

Yet we will not be able to avoid the big picture for long. That was the theme of a Democratic Audit/Charter 88 conference yesterday (sponsored by *The Times* and *Political Quarterly*). Lord Hurd of Westwell highlighted the English question posed by devolution. "As likely as any result of the next general election will be the return of a Labour Government which would this time be dependent on Scottish and Welsh Labour votes. It would not then be tolerable that policy on education, housing, and social matters in England should be decided by the votes of Scots and Welsh members when English MPs had no such rights in Scotland and Wales because these subjects were devolved."

Problems will emerge even earlier. For all the days spent on devolution legislation, there has been almost no discussion about how the procedures of the Commons will have to take account of the start of the Scottish parliament and the Welsh assembly next summer.

The standing of Scottish MPs at Westminster will change and new conventions will have to be created, just as there were for the many fewer Northern Ireland members at Westminster during the 50-year life of Stormont.

There are also legislative consequences. Lord Dahrendorf is a member of the Delegated Powers and Deregulation Committee, which matters given the propensity of successive governments to include provisions in legislation to delegate important powers to ministers.

However, the new Welsh assembly will largely take on the powers currently delegated to the Welsh Secretary. Such delegation is presumably more desirable, but where does that leave comparable delegation in England? These are more than just loose ends. They reflect the inherent instability — or if you prefer the dynamic process — created by the Government's constitutional programme.

It is possible to see a reformed second chamber playing a role in relation to devolution and other constitutional issues. Indeed, in other circumstances, a second chamber would have been the right body to put its foot down over the European Elections Bill. Other circumstances would be if the Lords had clearly defined powers and functions in relation to the Commons and a composition with broad legitimacy. Neither applies now. The Government will be deluding itself if it believes that removing the hereditaries will be enough to ensure legitimacy. In the Lords, Lord Butler of Brockwell, the former Cabinet Secretary, quoted Gibbon's famous (and soon to be over-familiar) aphorism: "The principles of a free constitution are irrevocably lost when the legislative power is nominated by the executive".

Delivering one of the few "big picture" speeches we now hear from ministers on the constitution, Jack Straw said the hereditary peers Bill was "a self-contained measure". Political pressures will, I believe, force more rapid action on longer term reform, despite the less hurried, deliberative timetable of a Royal Commission. Mr Straw pointed to how much the Government is doing, but there is also a need, as Lord Hurd characteristically put it, to know the destination and not simply the name of the first couple of stops on the way.

☐ A key sentence was omitted from yesterday's commentary. So rather than Tony Blair visiting Spain and holding talks last Sunday in London with Bodo Hombach, the German Chancellery Minister, on a shared approach, it was Peter Mandelson, as the Prime Minister's personal emissary around Europe.

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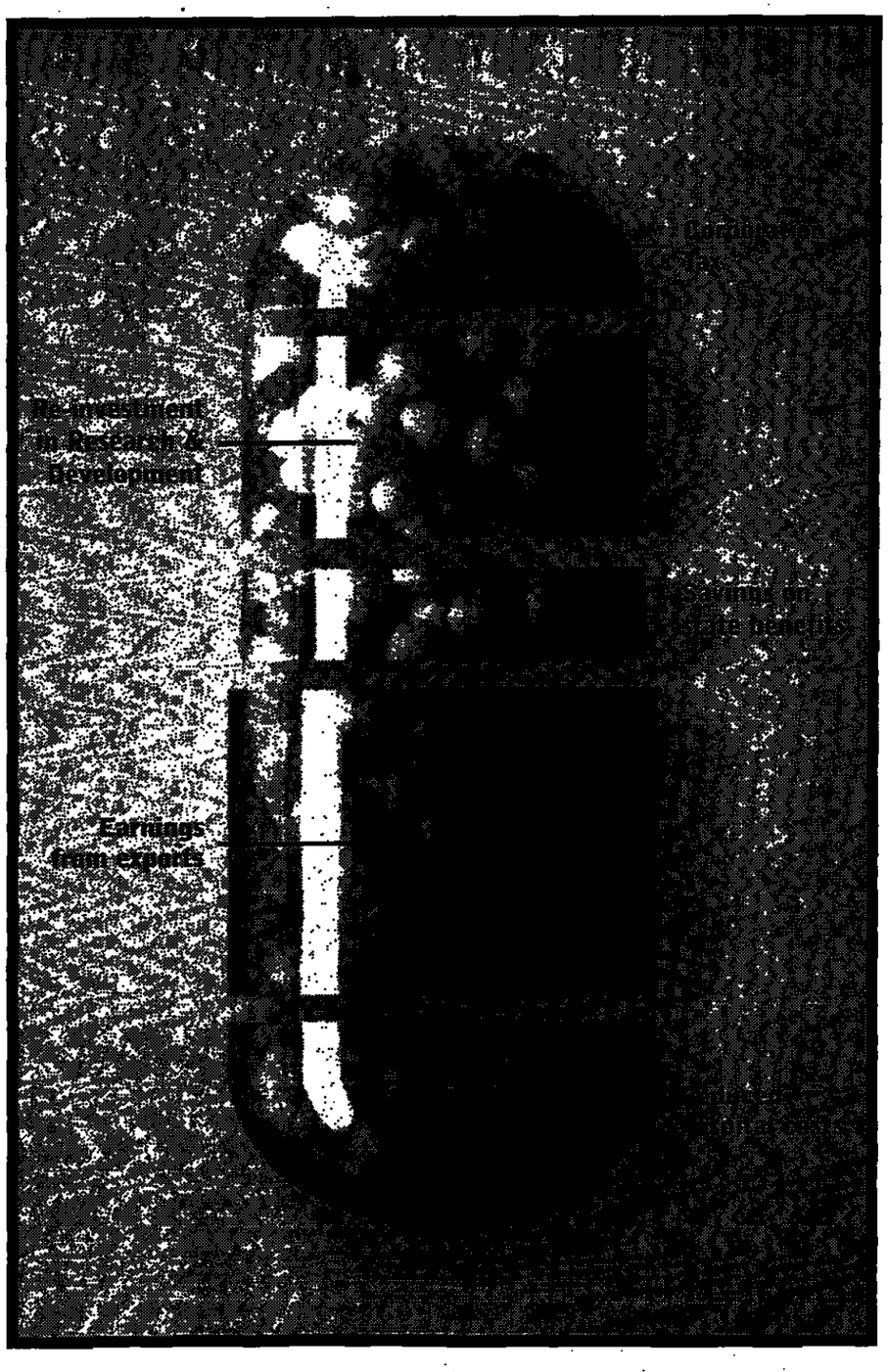
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Tokyo judges reject PoWs' claim for compensation



Arthur Titherington near Singapore in 1942

BY ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO AND MICHAEL EVANS

BRITISH veterans who suffered at the hands of the Japanese in prison camps during the Second World War expressed outrage yesterday over the decision by a Tokyo court to reject their claims for compensation. They vowed to continue their fight "for justice".

Arthur Titherington, the 76-year-old chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, was so angry that after the judgment had been delivered he spat on the steps of the Japanese parliament building. "There is no justice in this country," he said.

After the two-minute judgment, which dashed the hopes of the PoWs, who are each claiming £13,500 and an apology from the Japanese Government, Mr Titherington said he planned to put more pressure on Tony Blair to help to win redress from Japan.

Martyn Day, the British lawyer advising the seven plaintiffs, described the judgment in the Tokyo district court as a "kick in the teeth". He said he had asked Japanese colleagues to lodge an immediate appeal. However, he was not confident of victory. "The Japanese judiciary is too much in the pocket of the Government," he said.

At yesterday's ruling, which followed a four-year "campaign for justice" by the PoWs, Judge Shigeki Inoue said: "This court rejects the plaintiffs' claims. There is no need to examine facts related to maltreatment or to rule on them."

Keith Martin, a plaintiff representing British civilian internees, said the decision not to consider the suffering of the PoWs was "a real insult". Mr Titherington was unable to contain his anger. "I expected them to wriggle out on a technicality. But to tell lies, to say that I wasn't beaten for three and a half years . . ."

The three judges refused to recognise the argument that Article Three of the Hague Convention and other international treaties allowed individual victims to claim compensation. Instead, they found for the defendant, the Japanese Government, which has consistently argued that such claims can only be settled between governments and that the compensation issue was resolved with the signing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty in 1951.

In Britain, Bill Holtham, 78, founder of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, said: "If there is a way of taking this further, we will. It's not just the survivors, it's the widows and dependants whose lives have been completely ruined by the Japanese in the war."

Muriel Parham, spokeswoman for the Association of British Civilian Internees, said: "It is disgusting, but I don't see it as a surprise. The Japanese don't want to lose face." Mrs Parham, 62, from Horsham in Sussex, was five years old when she was captured in Manila with her family.

Joan Bulley, 60, also a member of the civilian internees' association, was taken prisoner in Shanghai aged four. She said: "The sheer boldness of the decision just emphasises the cultural differences between them and us."

She added: "It is the inhumanity of it all. I know the Japanese suffered as well, but how can a country live with itself when it knows it has done these horrific things in the past?"

Britain had 60,000 soldiers and 18,000 civilians held prisoner by the Japanese.

In the Commons yesterday, MPs urged the Government to press Japan for compensation for the PoWs. Margaret Beckett, Leader of the House, said: "I think the whole House sympathises deeply with those who brought the case and the suffering they have endured, and understands their disappointment."

A spokesman for the Japanese Government said it had to respect the court decision and insisted that Japan had already apologised in the statement made by the Japanese Prime Minister in August 1995 when he expressed "deep remorse and heartfelt apology".

Derek Fatchett, Foreign Office Minister, said the Government was "constrained" by Britain's decision more than 40 years ago to accept the compensation agreed under the San Francisco Treaty.

Leading article, page 25

HARUYOSHI YAMAGUCHI / REUTERS



Arthur Titherington shows his anger in the court yesterday

SAS documentary claims regiment ignored help calls

FROM CATHIE BELL IN WELLINGTON

THE SAS let its men down by ignoring their calls for help, a New Zealander who served with the elite force in the Gulf War said yesterday.

The special forces soldier, known as "Mark the Kiwi" in the bestselling Gulf War book *Bravo Two Zero* but referred to as Mike Coburn yesterday, spoke out on a current affairs programme screened in New Zealand last night.

The British Government had gone to the highest court in New Zealand — the Court of Appeal — to stop TVNZ from running the interview with Mr Coburn, but the judges rejected the attempt and refused the British Attorney-General leave to appeal for an injunction to the Privy Council, which is still the court of last resort for New Zealand.

Mr Coburn said last night that when on operations SAS soldiers had a device called a "guardnet", which meant they could communicate directly with their squadron. "That's a fixed frequency, which may or may not work, but it's there and that's what we managed to get through on, saying we needed help. Unfortunately, that was ignored."

Mr Coburn said he felt the hierarchy of the regiment during the Gulf War let a lot of its soldiers down. "They didn't lie to us, but we were misled," he said.

He said it would have been all right if the soldiers had known before they left on operations that calls for help would be ignored: "You can get that mindset in your head and then you make your own contingencies for that. That was certainly never made clear to us before we went out. I was disgusted."

Andy McNab, author of *Bravo Two Zero*, said on the programme that the right decision was made to ignore the calls. Had an aircraft been sent to help, it would have been shot down, he said.



McNab: claims the right decision was made

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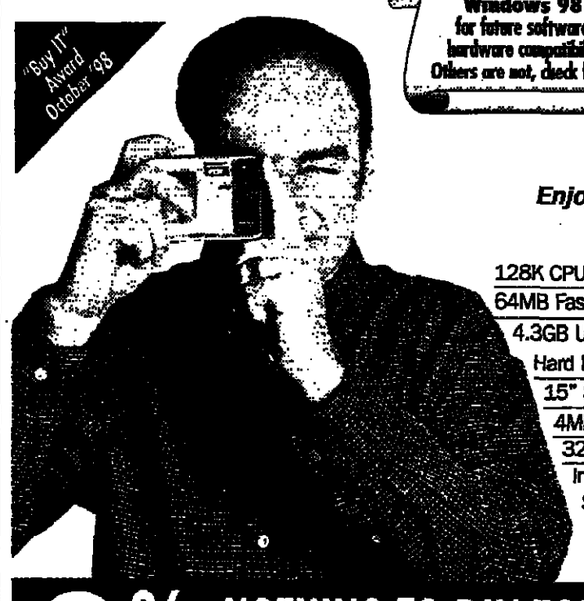
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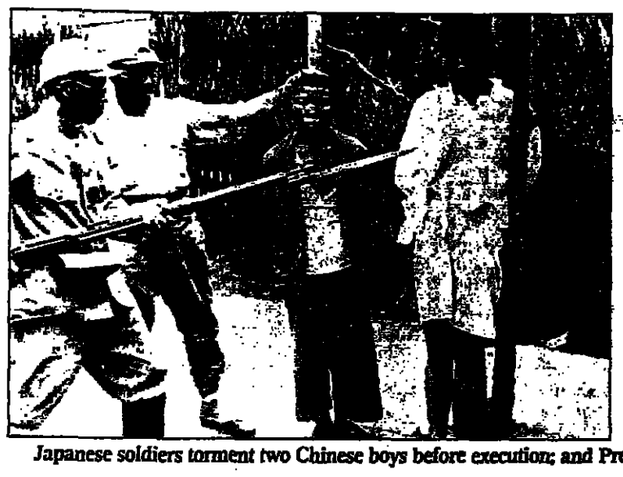
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Japan avoids China kowtow

Tokyo fails to sign an apology for past atrocities. David Watts observes an Oriental snub





Japanese soldiers torment two Chinese boys before execution; and President Jiang in Tokyo yesterday

ASIA'S two great powers were at diplomatic loggerheads last night after they failed to sign an agreed text in which Japan was to have apologised for wartime atrocities against China.

The original Chinese intention had been that there would be both a verbal and a written apology for Japanese conduct up to and including the Second World War. But despite late nights at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, *no text could be agreed upon and the two sides are likely to settle for a* more anodyne document which Keizo Obuchi, the Japanese Prime Minister, and President Jiang Zemin will agree upon *but not sign*.

For President Jiang, what would have amounted to a Japanese kowtow was to have been the highlight of his visit — *the first state visit by a Chinese* leader since the Second World War.

The Chinese had sought an apology similar to that granted to South Korea during the recent visit of President Kim Dae Jung, but a spokesman for the Japanese Prime Minister said that the relationship had been entirely different — China was never a Japanese colony — and therefore similar treatment was not appropriate. A verbal apology would suffice.

Last night both sides were trying to save face in an extraordinary diplomatic debacle for two countries which prepare their diplomatic positions with such care. A Japanese government spokesman, Hiromu Nonaka, said that there had never been any intention to sign such a document in spite of an earlier announcement. But the Chinese spokesman, Tang Guoqiang, insisted: "The key is not the signing, it is how to implement the letter and spirit of the document. With regard to Sino-Japan relations, the most important issues are how to face history, how to have correct perspective with regard to history and how to open up the future for bilateral relations."

Neither side, however, could disguise the fact that previous communiqués between the two sides had been signed and had had the force of law.

During their two hours of talks Mr Obuchi offered Japan's "deep remorse and a heartfelt apology to the Chinese people" — much along the same lines as the ground-breaking apology in 1995 of the former Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, which was issued in his name but did not have the support of the whole Cabinet.

The Chinese had been hoping for something more along the lines of an atonement for the so-called Nanking Massacre and other incidents during the struggle on the Asian mainland from 1937 to 1945.

The problem for both countries is that historical truth is now buried under layers of propaganda and obfuscation on both sides. The Japanese did not come to terms with their history after the war, not least because of the American occupation forces which introduced press controls and forbade debate on the war at either the popular or academic level. There was never an accounting after the war and it is only in recent decades that the full horror of what happened in China has emerged in Japan.

For their part, the Chinese version of history has been hijacked by propagandists and used skilfully to manipulate Japanese Governments into doing China's behest. The Japanese know that once their signature was on any document assigning guilt it could immediately be used at will for propaganda purposes among a population which still harbours strong emotions about Japan. Recent books such as Iris Chang's *The Rape of Nanking* have only added emotional rather than factual fuel to the fire.

The Prime Minister promised to head off future disagreements by setting up a hotline between the two countries. But he seems to have headed off Chinese demands for a strong statement on Taiwan which President Clinton agreed to during a visit to Shanghai. There has been no mention of not supporting Taiwanese membership of world organisations.



NATALIE BEHRING / REUTERS

A museum exhibit showing a Chinese man being tortured by Japanese soldiers at Harbin in China

Wounds of brutal war refuse to heal

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

AT THE Japanese Atrocities Museum, south of Beijing, the place where many believe the Second World War began in 1937 with a surprise Japanese attack on Chinese Nationalist troops, a party of 400 Chinese schoolchildren had just walked 12 miles through the snow under red banners to see the exhibits.

"I think the Japanese people on the whole are good and only the militarists are really bad," said a teenager, following the official Chinese Communist Party line. "I don't believe the Japanese have really changed at all," said a girl of 15. "How can they? They are not taught in school about the brutality their troops really inflicted on China."

One exhibit, based on a real incident, shows a Japanese army "killing contest" near Nanjing. Officers held a competition to see who could behead more Chinese prisoners. One scored 106, the other 105.

In the central Chinese city of Chongqing, the vast tunnels into the rock in which the city is built high above the Yangtze River are still there, housing storerooms, dormitories, even a disco. Once the city's entire population sheltered in these tunnels during Japanese bombing raids.

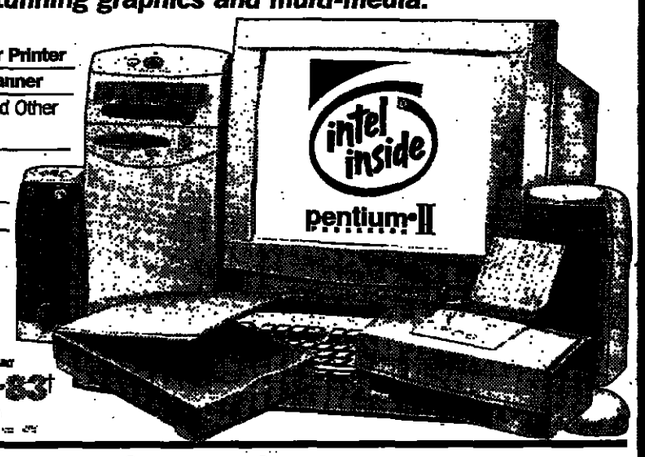
"On nights when the moon reflected on the water, the Japanese devils in their bombers followed the river upstream, and unloaded all their bombs on us," said one old Chongqing resident. "Everyone has a bitter memory."

Diplomats say that China and Japan clearly still cannot turn the page on the Second World War. The crux of it all was Nanjing, where 300,000 Chinese were butchered in 1937. Lin Yuting, once China's leading novelist, called the war "the most terrible, the most inhuman, the most brutal, the most devastating war in all Asia's history".

Analysts agree that future geopolitical and economic contours of Asia will in large part be determined by the nature of relations between Japan and China. If it deteriorates into a bitter rivalry, the east Asian region could face another threat to stability that will not go away so soon.

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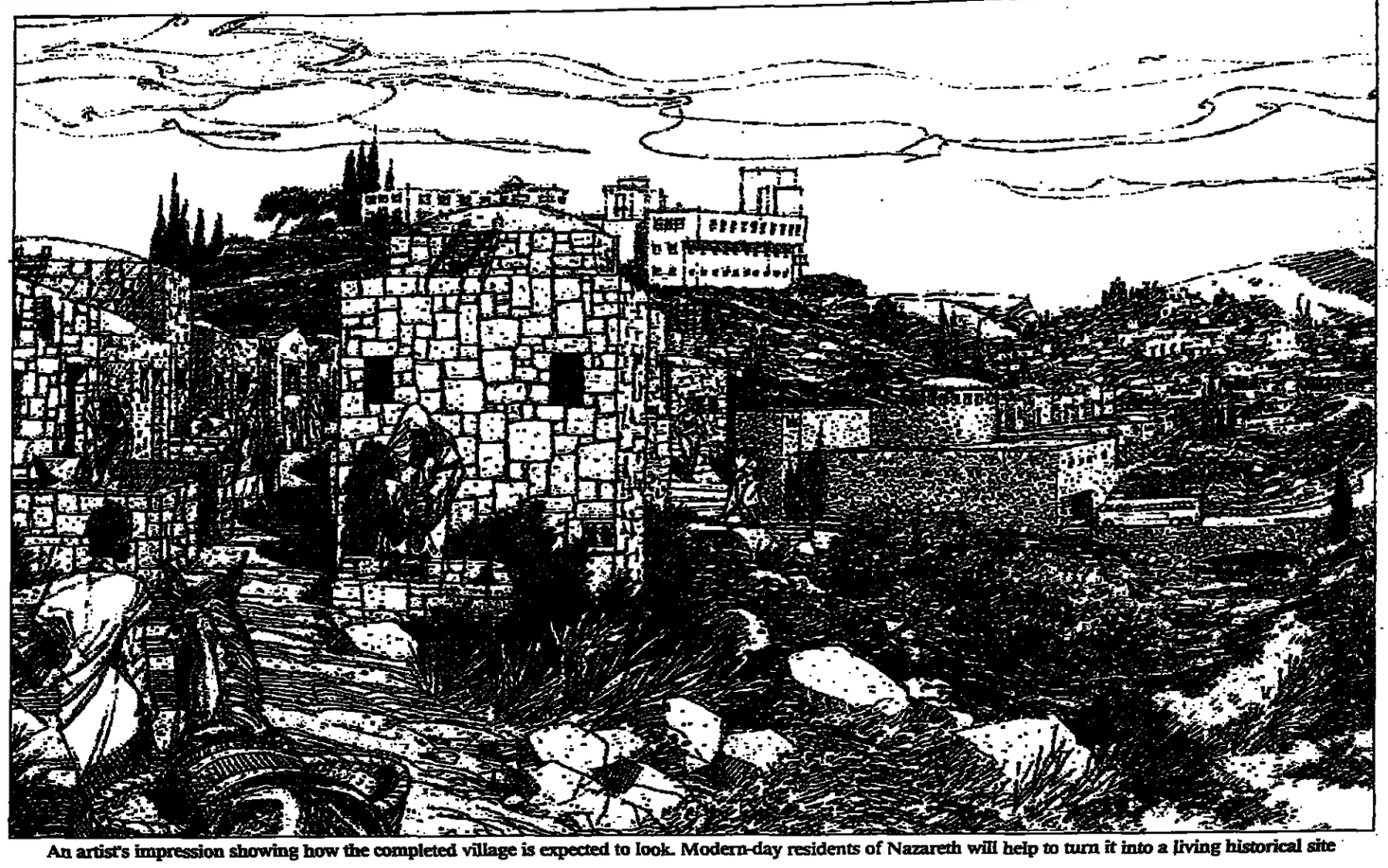
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Residents help to clear the 20-acre site ready for construction to start



An artist's impression showing how the completed village is expected to look. Modern-day residents of Nazareth will help to turn it into a living historical site

Nazareth to become site of biblical 'theme park'

Archaeologists plan to recreate Jesus's home village, writes **Ross Dunn**

AN AMBITIOUS project has been launched in Nazareth to construct a living village showing how the area would have appeared in the time Jesus Christ lived there.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held this week on the 20-acre site and organisers have begun a fundraising drive for the estimated $60 million (£35 million) needed to complete the work. About 200 volunteers, including Christians of different denominations and Muslims from Nazareth, took part.

The Nazareth Village will operate from 2000, but construction will continue for several more years. It is being built using the archaeological remains of stone watchtowers, a terraced farming landscape and a wine press, fitting the images used by Jesus in the Parable of the Tenants in Mark xxii, 1: "A certain man planted a vineyard, and set a hedge about it and digged a place for the winevat and built a tower and let it out to husbandmen."

Although little is known about Jesus's early years, it is believed that he spent most of his life in Nazareth before starting his missionary work. The Scriptures say Christ was born in Bethlehem, and fled with his family to Egypt to escape King Herod.

He then returned to Nazareth in Galilee, where he worked as a builder or carpenter until he was about 30. That Jesus might have once walked the very land on which the project is being built seems probable, given that during his lifetime there were only 300 villagers in Nazareth and all would have worked together at harvest time.

Ross Joseph Voss, the archaeologist at the site, said locals from present-day Nazareth will dress in 1st-century attire and perform tasks such as weaving and farming in the village. "We want this to be a living village, people on the land are actually going to be working, not acting, pruning the olive trees, pruning the vineyards, pressing the oil," said Michael Hostetler, the project's director.

The staff will also assume the role of storytellers and explain the early life of Jesus. "We want storytellers, who will take on the role of a sandalmaker for example, a farmer, or a homemaker," said Mr Hostetler.

Visitors could be given the option of wearing robes (wool in winter and linen in summer) and sandals, and joining in activities such as treading grapes to produce wine.Mr Voss said the aim was to reproduce biblical life. "It was a little dirty, a little smelly and a little rough," he said. "People today are insulated from the rural lifestyle and they have really no awareness of what it might have been like."

A diverse group of Christians, including Jimmy Carter, the former US President, and Pat Boone, the American entertainer, are helping in the effort to raise funds for the Nazareth Village, which will be run by a non-profit, non-denominational organisation. There are also plans for a study centre, an interactive educational museum and a restaurant.

Modern Nazareth is a predominantly Muslim city of 60,000, jammed with buildings and traffic. Stephen Pfann, director of the Centre for the Study of Early Christianity in Jerusalem, said the village project could boost tourism and provide work and revenue for the local people. "I suppose you could also call it a theme park," he said.

"Here you have a piece of property that is nearly contiguous with the original village and it just happens by chance or by miracle that it has not been developed. Everything else is covered with concrete and dug up and covered over." The restoration work is being conducted under the supervision of Mark Goodman, an Israeli architectural conservationist, who has worked with the Israeli Antiquities Authority. "We take very much care to continue the original technique, the original materials and style, so that it is an authentic restoration," he said.

Mr Goodman said the village would have widespread appeal. "It is essentially a Jewish village from biblical times, in a modern Arab town and it is most meaningful for Christians," he said.

Israel attacks Britain on 'closed' Holocaust files

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL is demanding greater access to international archives on the Holocaust era and has published a controversial "blacklist" of repositories it claims have put obstacles in the way of researchers, including Britain's MI5.

The list, which has prompted a denial from British officials and those of other countries, was made public in advance of a 44-nation conference on Holocaust-era assets which opens in Washington on Monday.

Delegates will discuss looted art, insurance, communal property and the opening of files belonging to firms and public agencies. In a letter released this week, Bobby Brown, adviser on Diaspora affairs to the Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, named a dozen archives in Europe and Russia that allegedly "have refused or have been uncooperative in sharing information".

Among the state institutions named are the MI5 intelligence agency and the files of the British Custodian of Enemy Property, as well as the French National Archives, the Vatican archives and the central state archives and Prague Jewish Museum in the Czech Republic.

Mr Brown told the Associated Press news agency that the British Custodian had allowed historians to look at Second World War bank accounts, but not records of safe deposit boxes.

A Home Office spokesman said: "To the best of our knowledge there is nothing on MI5 files that is relevant to the Holocaust." The Israeli letter said: "We appeal to each institution listed to open their files so that we may learn why civilised society failed in its basic commitment to ensure the safety, lives and property of our people."

Philippe Delaval, head of the French National Archives, said he was "astonished" by the accusation, and Jan Decker, a Czech Interior Ministry spokesman, said: "We have given them everything they wanted."

Party gets in a stew over pork

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

RELIGIOUS Jews are up in arms because some commentators have blamed pork price rises for last month's 3 per cent rise in inflation (Christopher Walker writes).

Hatzofeh, the National Religious Party paper, said yesterday it was "an odious disgrace" that profane meat was included in the price index. "This is not the Jewish state that we all yearned for," the paper said.

Jonathan Katz, an economist, said that pork jumped by an unusual 5.4 per cent last month, "but it can hardly take all the blame in an unusual month when the shekel was devalued by 9 per cent".

For many years a few kibbutzim have specialised in the production of pork in elevated buildings, kept off the ground so that the animals do not touch Jewish soil, and sold under the euphemistic name of "white steak".

But since the immigration of a million citizens of the former Soviet Union in recent years, pork selling has become much more open.

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Ex-President flees sex case


Banana: may be seeking Anglican Church help

Zimbabwe hunts guilty Banana after he jumps bail, Jan Raath reports

BOTSWANA police promised last night to hunt down the Rev Canaan Banana, the former President of Zimbabwe, who fled across the border before his conviction in Harare yesterday on 11 charges of homosexual abuse.

Banana, the Methodist minister who served as Zimbabwe's first head of state, was convicted by Harare High Court yesterday. Judge Godfrey Chidyausiku delivered his verdict to an empty dock. He was told that Banana, 62, had jumped bail and fled into neighbouring Botswana about a week ago, where he was applying for political asylum.

The judge ordered warrants for Banana's arrest to be issued, revoked his bail of about £320 and impounded the title deeds to his mansion in suburban Harare.

Botswana police said that they would search for Banana. Edwin Batshu, Botswana's Deputy Police Commissioner, said that Banana had not presented himself to any police station or any border authority when he entered the country. "The man is now a criminal and we have means to extradite him," he said.

A Botswana official said it was possible that Banana had left Botswana. "He did not meet any people in authority, nor did he report that he was here," a presidential official said. "As far as the President's office knows, he has left the country." He added that Banana had not sought asylum.

Augustine Chikumira, of the Zimbabwe attorney-general's office, said that he would apply for Banana's extradition.

Yesterday's court hearing in Harare finally demolished the respectable image of the US-educated churchman, a hero of the struggle against white rule who was revered as a national father figure.

His trial in June heard 18 days of sordid evidence of how he tried to use his authority as President to force ten young men into having sex with him. They included his air force, police and intelligence service aides and bodyguards, a cook and a gardener at his official residence and a hitchhiker.

He is known to have succeeded with only one. The others said they escaped his advances, one by screaming for help from Banana's wife, Janet, and another by throwing him into a swimming pool.

Mr Chikumira said Banana's diplomatic passport, issued to him as former head of state, and his ordinary passport were in the authorities' hands; he could only have crossed the border illegally.

Security sources believe that he went on foot through the thick thorn bush of Zimbabwe's border with Botswana, the same route he had used 26 years ago when the Rhodesian authorities refused to give him a passport to take up an appointment as a university chaplain in Washington DC.

Reports in Harare said that Banana was in the village of Mogoditshane, about three miles from the Botswanan capital, Gaborone, where he had asked for help from the Anglican Church there.

CBS showed mercy killing 'to help ratings'

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE screening of a video showing a patient receiving a lethal injection, which led to a murder charge against Dr Jack Kevorkian, has provoked accusations that American television networks will do anything to boost ratings.

CBS has had to mount a vigorous defence of its decision to show the tape of the death of Thomas Youk, a terminally ill patient whom Dr Kevorkian, an enthusiastic proponent of the "right to die" was seen injecting with deadly drugs.

After the footage was shown on CBS's flagship current affairs programme *60 Minutes* on Sunday evening, a Michigan prosecutor watched an unedited version of the tape and charged Dr Kevorkian with first-degree murder. The doctor got the showdown he wanted and *60 Minutes* had its biggest audience of the season.

Advertisers dropped out before the screening, but they were replaced quickly. Ratings were up by 11 per cent in 44 markets nationwide, making it the network's top-rated show of the week.

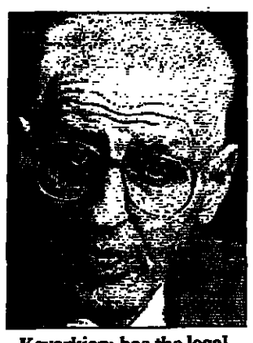
CBS has been deluged with criticism because the show was aired during the crucial November "sweeps" in which ratings are taken for use in setting advertising rates. CBS's year-on-year prime-time ratings are down by 5.2 per cent and it has the oldest viewer profile among the networks as they all fight to keep their audiences in the face of stiff competition from cable television.

Religious groups have been up in arms over the death itself and other media organisations and commentators have accused CBS of stooping to the lowest common denominator. "One can just imagine the culture and ratings chase that produces something like this," said Sanford Ungar, Dean of American University's School of Communication.

ABC previously has shown a Dutch documentary about euthanasia, but excised a portion of the film in which a patient was shown dying.

Don Hewitt, executive producer of *60 Minutes*, was moved to write a letter countering criticism in *The New York Times*. "We respect the views of those who contend that we may not have been prudent in broadcasting [the programme]," he said. "However, there is absolutely no justification for [the] suggestion that we ran the story because it was a ratings sweep week. In our 30 years on the air we have never done anything to pander to a sweeps week.

"We ran this story when it was ready to be published — not a minute sooner, not a minute later. With the issue of euthanasia a matter of public discourse now as never before, we feel strongly that the story — exactly as we told it — was a fit and proper one for us, or anyone, to tell."


Kevorkian: has the legal showdown he wanted

COLUMBUS DISPATCH / AP


Frederick Cook's claim to have conquered Mount McKinley in Alaska won him backing for the race to the North Pole. New evidence suggests he was a charlatan

American mountain conquest 'a hoax'

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE discovery of an uncropped version of the famous photograph purporting to show the conquest of Mount McKinley is being claimed as the strongest evidence yet that the ascent was a hoax.

In 1906 the American explorer, Dr Frederick Cook, took a picture of his companion, Edward Barrill, atop America's highest peak. He was hailed as a hero and given backing to trek to the North Pole. His claim to be the first man to the pole was discredited, and for 90 years there has been speculation about the authenticity of the McKinley climb.

The new evidence about the photograph appears to confirm suspicions that the only summit he reached was that of Fake Peak. The print was unearthed by Robert Bryce, the author of a book about Cook's rivalry with the explorer Robert Peary, in papers given to Ohio University.

Taken from Cook's negative it shows a wider vista than that which was printed in his account of the climb, *To the Top of the Continent*.

The broader shot shows geographical features that appear to prove that Barrill was not standing at 20,320ft on the Alaskan summit but 19 miles away at an elevation of just 5,000ft.

"I don't think Cook ever had any intention of going to the summit," wrote Mr Bryce in an exploration journal. "He apparently spotted this feature that he thought he could pass off as the summit and it was easy to stage the photograph because Barrill had to climb only a few hundred feet above the glacier floor."

Cook's reputation did not recover. He was imprisoned in 1923 for an oil swindle.

WORLD IN BRIEF

100 die in India's latest rail tragedy

Delhi: At least 100 people died yesterday in India's latest train disaster, confirming the appalling safety record of the world's busiest rail network (Christopher Thomas writes). It happened before dawn at Kauri in Punjab, a small town near Ludhiana, when a Calcutta-bound train crashed into ten derailed carriages from the Amritsar-bound Frontier Mail. Derailing is a constant danger on Indian railways because of poor maintenance of track and rolling stock. More than 250 people were injured and the death toll is likely to rise substantially over the coming days. The state government of Punjab ordered hospitals to treat the injured without charge.

World hunger grows

Rome: The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said that the number of chronically hungry people in the world was rising and that the Asian financial crisis could spell even more pain for the poor. The Rome-based agency, which in 1996 hosted a world food summit that aimed to halve the number of hungry people by 2015, said in an annual *State of Food and Agriculture* report that the number of severely undernourished people in developing countries rose to 828 million in 1994-96 from 822 million in 1990-92. *(Reuters)*

Singapore relents

Singapore: Singapore dropped all restrictions on the movements of Chia Thye Poh, 57, a former political prisoner who had been held without trial for 23 years. The former socialist MP was arrested in October 1966 and accused of bring a communist. He was freed in 1989 but confined to a fortress on an island off Singapore. In 1992 he was allowed to work in Singapore, and later allowed to reside there. But the Government warned him not to get involved in political activities. *(AP)*

Report clears Moi



Nairobi: The Kenyan Government has issued a report on the 1990 murder of the country's Foreign Minister, Robert Ouko, right. It has cleared the President and Nicholas Biwott, a powerful Cabinet minister, of any blame. Ouko's charred and shot body was found in western Kenya in February 1990. The killing prompted a crisis for the Government of President Moi. The murder has still to be solved. *(Reuters)*

Miners killed in fraud

Beijing: Chinese police have arrested 12 out of 38 people suspected of killing 22 coal miners in staged accidents so they could claim compensation from bosses, state radio reported. The ring killed the miners in 20 cases in various provinces over a two-year period. They tricked people into working in coal mines, then staged accidents, including roof falls and explosions, or beat miners to death before posing as relatives to claim compensation. *(AFP)*

Taiwan tunnel studied

Beijing: Scholars and experts are discussing the possibility of building a tunnel under the Taiwan Strait to link China and Taiwan, the official Xinhua news agency reported. The idea was put forward by Wu Zhiming of Beijing's Qinghua University, which has a centre for feasibility studies. Participants at the symposium in Xiamen, southern China, include China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the United States and Japan. China and Taiwan have been separated since 1949. *(AFP)*

Heavy metal

Nantes: The world's biggest bell is to be made in a foundry here next month before being shipped to the US for the millennium celebrations. It will be installed in a shopping complex in Newport, Kentucky. The bell, weighing about 30 tonnes with a 13ft diameter, will be made by Paccard foundries, founded in 1796, whose 30 employees specialise in casting bells and ship propellers. Paccard is the only firm in France capable of casting such a large amount of metal. □ *(AFP)*

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Criminal charge threat to Clinton

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

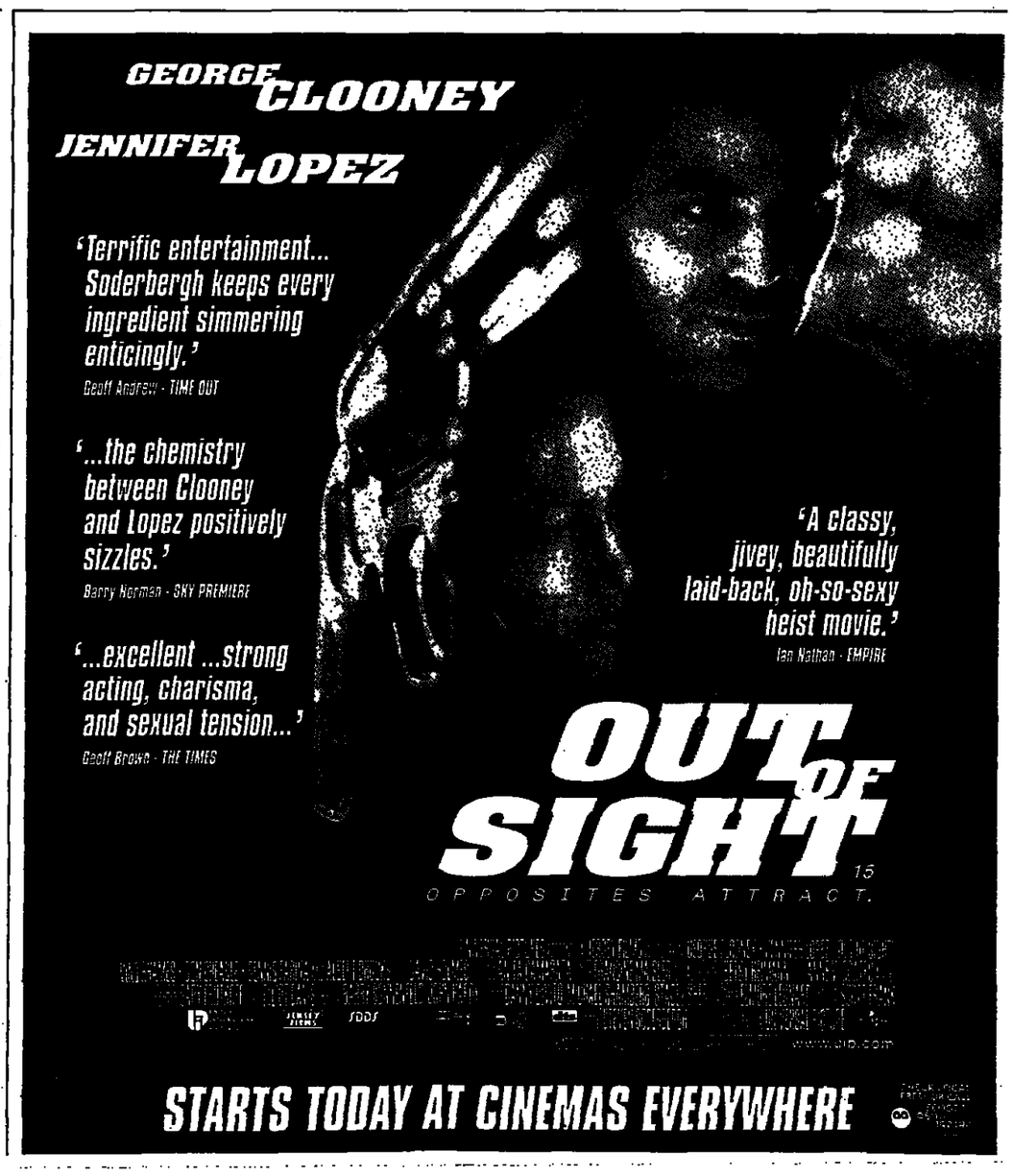
KENNETH STARR has threatened to bring criminal charges against President Clinton after he leaves the White House, raising a vision of the two adversaries locked in combat for years.

That spectre, which is bound to dismay the President's advisers, came as the White House continued to try to extricate him from the more pressing threat of impeachment hearings on Capitol Hill.

Asked whether the independent prosecutor might consider indicting Mr Clinton after he leaves office in January 2001, Mr Starr's spokesman, Charles Bakaly, said: "That's fair to conclude, but I don't want to send signals here." Mr Starr's office said that even without such an indictment it would take two years to tie up loose ends.

The longer-term threat of indictment has surfaced to complicate the tangled question of the fate of the House impeachment hearings. For days, it has seemed as if many House Republicans were keen to arrange a rapid ending short of impeachment, such as a formal censure. But yesterday reports surfaced that the House Judiciary Committee has begun to draw up three articles of impeachment against the President.

The most important charge would be the allegation that Mr Clinton committed perjury when he denied under oath that he had a sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky.



Schröder calls for big push to unify Europe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, proclaimed his commitment yesterday to the creation of a unified Europe that embraces the states of the former Soviet bloc.

The Chancellor's remarks, on his first visit to the European Commission since his election, came after calls this week for a single European state and harmonised taxes from the German Finance and Foreign Ministers.

Setting out his aims for Germany's turn next year in the EU presidency, which starts on January 1, Herr Schröder said that his vision of "an ever-integrating Europe" was the same as that of Helmut Kohl, his predecessor. "This is something that is shared by German politicians, irrespective of party affiliation," he said. He wanted "a unified Europe, one which does not stop at Germany's eastern borders".

Bonn was committed to achieving by March an agreement on future EU spending, including a cut in Germany's big net contribution to the EU budget, he said. In a reflection of fading German enthusiasm for bringing Poland and the other Eastern states rapidly into the EU, he refused to predict a date for their eventual membership. Germany's resistance, with that of Britain and others, to any rise in EU real spending, has brought it into conflict with the southern member states and upset the five Central European Governments that have just begun negotiations for EU entry.

The Chancellor steered clear in Brussels of the federalist themes that have stirred anger this week in Britain and prompted veto threats from the Government. On Monday, Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, pledged Germany would achieve agreement on harmonising certain taxes by June. German officials are still smarting at the hostile reaction in the British media by the minister's remarks. Later Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, said creating a single European state was "the decisive task of our time".

Yesterday the Commission continued its effort to calm British fears over moves to co-ordinate EU tax policy. Visiting London, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, Monetary Affars Commissioner, acknowledged that there was a "growing debate on the need to eliminate tax distortion" in the EU, but that, he said, was limited to aspects of business tax and interest on some non-resident savings accounts. "This does not automatically mean that the UK will be forced to accept levels of tax which apply in other EU countries, because on this matter unanimous votes rule."



De Silguy: calming British tax fears

Rome MP fuels row over Kurd

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY'S diplomatic crisis with Turkey over the request for political asylum by the Kurdish autonomist leader Abdullah Ocalan deepened yesterday, after it emerged that the PKK leader was accompanied to Rome from Moscow by an Italian communist MP.

Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, sought to defuse worsening tension between Ankara and Rome over the affair by saying that Massimo D'Alema's centre-left Government would not give political asylum to Mr Ocalan, who is wanted by Interpol for a series of murders and is being held in the Rome area under close guard by the police.

However, Silvio Berlusconi, the opposition leader, seized on the disclosure by Ramon Mantovani, a deputy from the hardline Communist Refoundation party, that he had accompanied Mr Ocalan on an Aeroflot flight from the Russian capital, where the Kurdish Communist Party leader went last month after being expelled from Syria.

Signor Berlusconi said that the affair had been stage-managed by pro-Moscow, anti-Nato elements within the Government and called for Mr Ocalan's expulsion from Italy.



Tom Stoppard at the Comédie Française, where he became the first foreign author to see his play performed. Photographs by Peter Nicholls

Stoppard makes Paris stage history

'Thrilled' British writer sees play performed in language he finds hard to follow, **Ben Macintyre** reports



Arcadia on stage: 'a masterpiece of love drama'

TOM Stoppard last night became the first foreign playwright to see his work staged at the famous Salle Richelieu in the Comédie Française, but the British writer frankly admitted that he might not have understood every word in the French version of his own play.

Stoppard's play *Arcadia* has made dramatic history in France by becoming the first to be transferred directly from a foreign stage into the repertoire of the Comédie Française, a move made possible by a change in the restrictive laws governing the plays that may be performed in the French national theatre.

"I'm not going to dissemble. I'm thrilled," Stoppard said in an interview before the opening night. "It's a very good cast. My French is not very good. I can read it painstakingly, but when people are talking fast I don't follow everything."

Stoppard worked closely with the translator and adaptor, Jean-Marie Besset, who has the added advantage of being a playwright himself. "He has a foot in both camps, which is not always the case," Stoppard said. "Nothing works exactly in another language and wit is very hard to translate. Obviously one can translate the sense, and as far as I can judge he's done that, but he's also succeeded at the level of style."

The first reviews of the play, while positive, also pointed to the problems of translation. "Tom Stoppard takes us back and forth, incessantly, between today and 1809," *Le Monde* observed. "It is a rich and ambitious play, performed by excellent actors who display almost superhuman memory — Jean-Marie Besset's dialogues do not lend themselves easily to memorisation."

Before 1995, plays by foreign authors could not be performed at the Comédie Française until a time limit had elapsed, and while other British playwrights such as Shakespeare and Sheridan had their work performed there in the 19th century, this was after their deaths.

The restrictions, intended to benefit French playwrights, were lifted when a new statute was passed four years ago allowing new plays by foreign writers to pass directly to the stage at the Comédie Française.

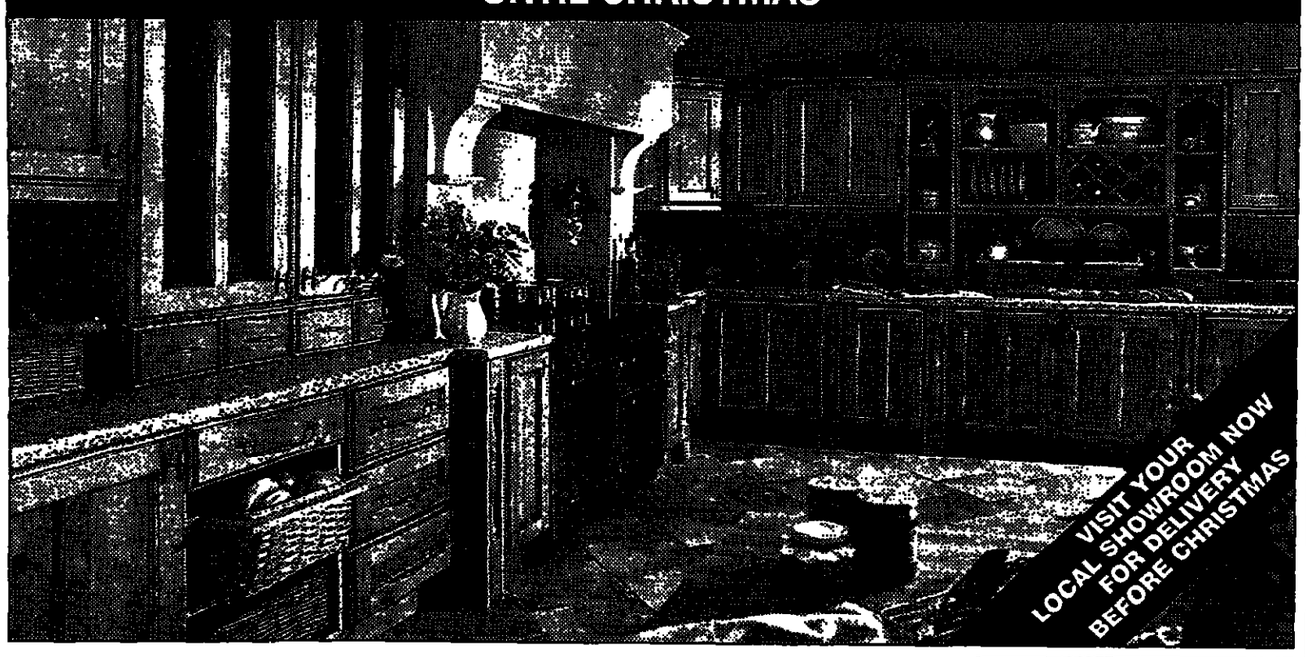
Jean-Pierre Miquel, administrator of the theatre, said that Stoppard's *Arcadia*, a drama about love, politics, manners and a satire on intellectual vanity, was the first play by a foreign author with sufficient merit to be staged at the Salle Richelieu since the new statute was passed. "If Stoppard's *Arcadia*, after the agreement of the governing committee, is the first illustration of this new possibility, that is because the work justified it," M Miquel said.

The opening night was sold out, and tickets are selling fast for future performances, a spokesman said. The theatre, which opened in 1680, is hosting a special performance of *Arcadia* on Monday, to be attended by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, and Cathérine Trautmann, the French Minister of Culture, as well as Stoppard himself.

The play, directed by Philippe Adrian, was first performed at the Vieux-Colombier theatre on the Left Bank earlier this year. Fifteen other plays by Stoppard have been translated into French.

However, while France is now officially welcoming the arrival of long-ostracised foreign talent on its most prestigious stage, there may be another reason why *Arcadia* has touched a chord and received such a signal recognition here. In his introduction to the play, Jean-Marie Besset observes pointedly: "Who would have thought that Tom Stoppard, master of verbal pyrotechnics, cerebral juggler of hyper-cultivated paradoxes, would one day give us *Arcadia*, a masterpiece of love drama against a metaphysical background, doubling up as a salon comedy? Written by a British author of Czech origin, this is, so to speak, an almost French play."

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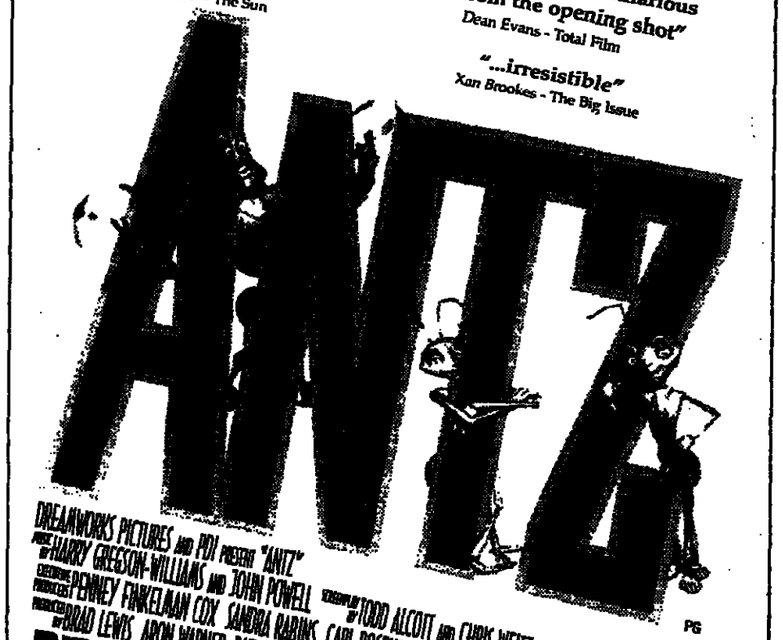
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Tycoon accused of 'blackmail' threat to Yeltsin

Ex-bodyguard fires latest shots in feud, writes **Robin Lodge** in Moscow

THE former chief bodyguard of Boris Yeltsin yesterday accused Boris Berezovsky, a financial magnate and master of political intrigue, of trying to blackmail the President's family to ensure his own job.

Speaking at a news conference, Aleksandr Korzhakov, who was dismissed as head of the Kremlin security service just before the 1996 presidential elections after more than a decade as Mr Yeltsin's closest confidant, said Mr Berezovsky had threatened to publish details of Yeltsin family finances if attempts were made "to remove him from the scene".

He said the documents covered details about the acquisition of property abroad by Mr Yeltsin's daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, and the amassing of capital by the family.

According to Mr Korzhakov, both Mrs Dyachenko and Mr Yeltsin's wife, Naina, regard Mr Berezovsky, who holds no official title other than Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as a "nightmare" they would like to forget. "But he has said that, if he is touched, he will publish all documents relating to the President's family," Mr Korzhakov said.

Mr Berezovsky, the most prominent among the group of oligarchs widely seen as holding the reins of power in Russia, dismissed the allegations. "Korzhakov-Sharikov's delirious stories should be published in full without comment," he said. Sharikov was the main character in the novel by Mikhail Bulgakov, *The Dog's Heart*, in which a dog is transformed into a man with particularly primitive and nonsensical ideas.

There have long been unsubstantiated allegations about the Yeltsin family wealth. According to newspaper reports over the past few years, Mrs Dyachenko is alleged to have bought a castle in Bavaria as well as a villa in southern France.

More recently, a Communist member of the Duma produced documents purporting to show that 26 per cent of shares in the ORT television company, controlled by Mr Berezovsky, had been transferred to Mr Yeltsin. The Kremlin has always denied any financial wrongdoing.

Yesterday's accusations are the latest stage in a long feud between Mr Berezovsky and Mr Korzhakov, as well as other senior figures in the security services.

Last week Mr Berezovsky organised a press conference by a group of Federal Security Service (FSB) officers, who said the agency had issued orders to kill him.

The charges were denied by Vladimir Putin, the FSB director. Mr Yeltsin himself, sidelined once again by his health from political developments, made no comment from his hospital bed, where he is being treated for pneumonia.

Mr Korzhakov also hinted that Mr Berezovsky may have been involved with the murders, in 1995 and last Friday respectively, of the television journalist Vladislav Listyev and the liberal politician Galina Starovoitova, both of which caused a wave of shock and revulsion across the country.

Asked if he thought Mr Berezovsky was behind the murder of Mrs Starovoitova, he said he could not be certain, but that there were similarities with the Listyev murder.



Berezovsky: one of the oligarchs running Russia



Fischinger: said she was punched by Coolio

Heat is on for Coolio

Stuttgart: Greeted by 200 fans, Coolio, the American rap star, denied charges of theft and assault in court yesterday, one year after his arrest for allegedly punching a saleswoman.

Police said the singer, who won a Grammy award for best rap solo in 1996 for *Gangsta's Paradise*, left a boutique in a Stuttgart suburb without paying for clothing worth about £580. Coolio, 35, denied punching Nicole Fischinger and said the incident was a misunderstanding.

He faces four years in prison if convicted. *(AP)*

THOMAS KIENZLE · AP



Coolio, whose real name is Artis Ivey, on his way to the district court in Böblingen, near Stuttgart yesterday

Loss of TV soap has viewers in a lather

BY ROBIN LODGE

RUSSIAN resilience is legendary. For years people have put up with unemployment, non-payment of wages and pensions, plummeting living standards and soaring crime.

But for a small group of middle-aged women the final straw came this week when state-owned RTR television pulled the plug on the Californian soap opera *Santa Barbara*. Bearing placards, the women mounted a picket outside RTR in Moscow.

Anton Zlatopolsky, RTR's executive director, described the *Santa Barbara* issue as a matter of national security.

He said the station was forced to take the programme off the air because of falling advertising revenues after the August financial crisis. An estimated 10.5 million people watch it every evening, making it by far the most popular soap on Russian television.

Now RTR has made swingeing cutbacks to buy another series and *Santa Barbara* will be back next week.

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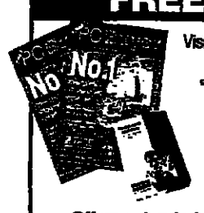
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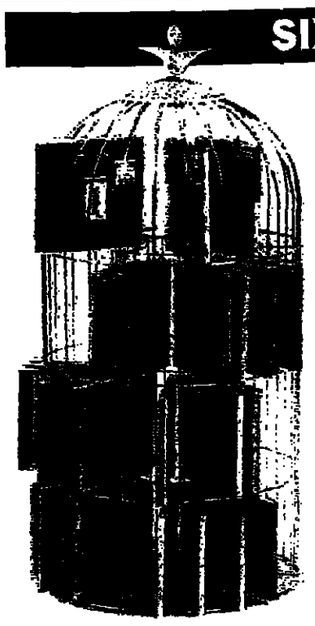
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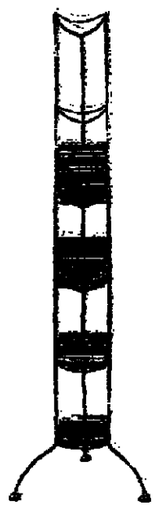
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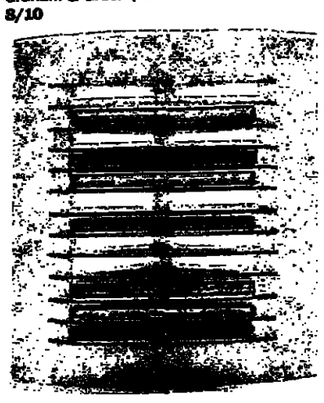
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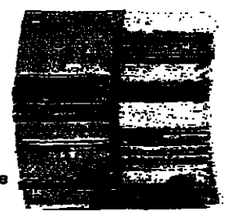
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McCord (0870 908 7020)
7/10



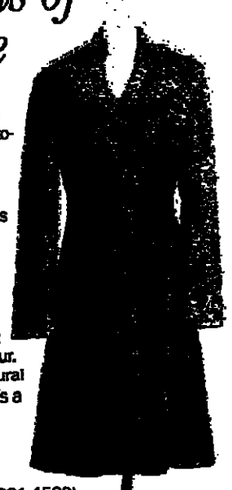
PINK CURVED, £8
A smooth, rounded front backed with a vertebrae spine. Great price for a fun storage system; available in pink, blue and purple.
Bhs (0171-262 3288)
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SWING RACK, £11.75
Colourful lightweight plastic rack. Curved shape slots into the next one. Good for stacking on a windowsill or shelf.
The Holding Company (0171-352 1600)
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COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

Objects of desire



■ If you want to avoid the head-to-toe Bet Lynch look, go for quality fake-fur accessories. This fantastic single-breasted, tailored coat from River Island is made from the softest short-pile fake fur. Available in natural or grey tones, it's a snip at £79.99. Wear it with a black poloneck and simple-cut trousers (0181-991 4500).



■ When fashion editors are in Paris, the first place they head for is Diptyque on Boulevard St Germain. It stocks the most beautiful scented candles, essential oils and eau de toilette in unusual fragrances. From myrrh, tea, and lemon verbena to our favourite – fig. Candle, £25.95, and eau de toilette, £35, available from Space NK Apothecary (0870-169 9999).

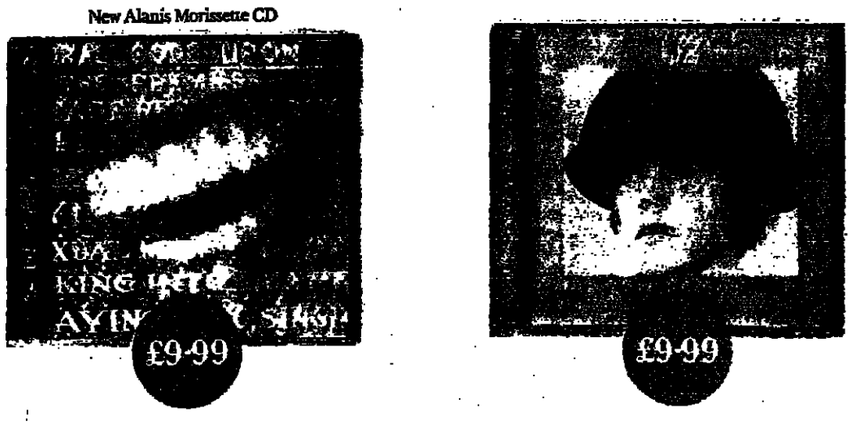
HOT TIP

An easy way to prevent bulging make-up bag syndrome is by keeping favourite eye shadows, blushers, make-up brushes and lip colours in Marks & Spencer's special cosmetics organiser. The flip-open palettes have hole-punched sides, which makes it easy to change colours. Organiser, £15, palettes £7 each (0171-935 4422).

Best Christmas gifts only £9·99 at WHSmith.



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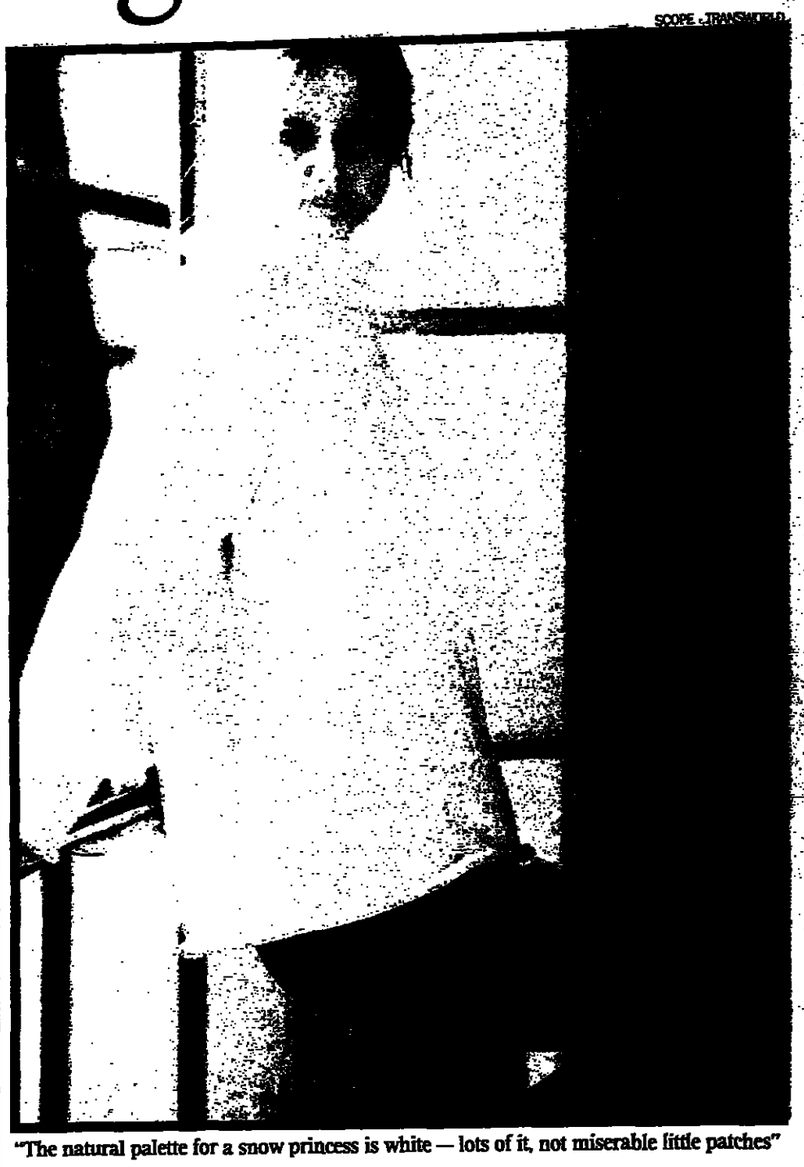
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Icy white winter glamour



"The natural palette for a snow princess is white — lots of it, not miserable little patches"

Possibly the most maddening aspect of the capricious British climate is its lack of proper drama. November sidles in, damp and chilly, bringing with it a vague sense of oppression: rain falls; storm drains become blocked; the wrong sort of leaves fall on the line; and the female half of the population changes distractedly into its winter plumage, which comes in fungal shades of dun and grey to match the melancholy landscape.

Of course, these tones of bare bark and leaf mould have their charm — they are flattered by the winter light, which can lend to bolder colours an unkind, brash reflection. And they are comforting to wear, lending the cosy illusion that one is in a state of semi-hibernation. But there are some things of which they are incapable. However beautifully cut your grey flannel pants, however soft your stone cashmere tunic, these garments are never going to give you a sense of drama or exhilaration.

Yet for all its irritating temperacy (I never pass the sluggish Thames at Greenwich without wondering what it would have looked like when the last King Charles was on the throne and there were frost fairs and oxen roasting on the frozen midstream), the chilly dark of midwinter lends itself as much to glamour as the months of heat and light. Not the slightly naff chic of *après-ski* either, but something more ambiguous — the allure of the cold-blooded princess in A.S. Byatt's new volume of short stories, *Elementals*, who sickens and grows languorous in the warmth, but draws from the chill a sharp beauty that sparkles more brilliantly with every degree of frost.

The natural palette for a snow princess is white — lots of it, not just miserable little touches. Of course, the instant you begin to flirt with the idea that you might swathe yourself in some precious fabric whose pristine pallor invites all sorts of violations — small children with felt-tips and Jackson Pollock tendencies, drunken waiters with dribbling sauce boats, emphatic fellow guests with slopping glasses of red wine — your inner housewife will start a dreary monologue about how it's not very practical, really, and hadn't you better see if they've got it in a nice beige?

I would tell her to shut up. In fact, some years ago, I *did* tell her to shut up. I had found the perfect alpaca coat — soft, enveloping, in a kind of lichenous no-colour — and I was just getting out my credit card when I spotted its more glamorous younger sister: the same coat, but in white, very faintly flushed with pink, like a snowfield with the setting sun on it. It was hopeless for the kind of life I lead, so I bought it. Since then it has been soaked to its pale pink satin lining in a New Year's Eve downpour in Lisbon, smudged with black oil by a surly Parisian taxi driver, stroked with loving little fingers covered in blackcurrant jam — and each time it has returned from the dry-cleaners with its sweet-natured glamour undiminished. It is a workhorse, quite as durable as the dun jacket in which I go for muddy rides. And unlike the riding jacket, it gives me an icy jolt of pleasure every time I put it on.

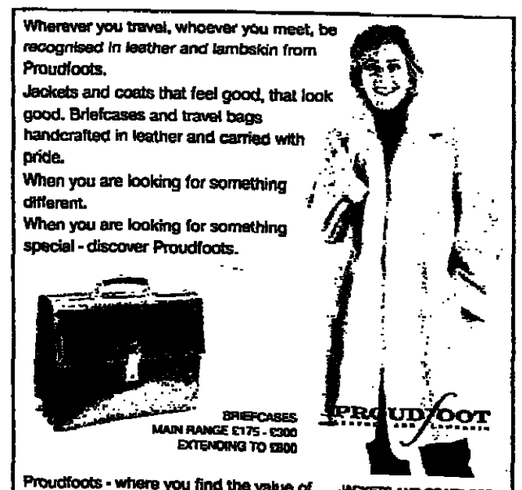
CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

So, if the prospect of going about for the next four months dressed as Miss Mouse is just too depressing, you might try winter white. If I hadn't already found the perfect pale coat, I should be very tempted by MaxMara's beautiful creamy alpaca town coat, £515. Helmut Lang does a handsome funnel-collared white wool jacket, £595, and Liberty stocks a cheerful white felt pea jacket by Jean-Charles de Castelbajac with silver buttons and red top-stitching, £369. Glamour queens would probably prefer the Maison de la Fausse Fourrure's white-gold, fake-fur coat, £325. Even nicer than fur is alpaca. Nicole Farhi has a huge, but miraculously light, sweater in furry cream alpaca mix for £249. At Liberty, Saltwater's featherweight cream alpaca jumper with a grey skeleton leaf on the front is reduced from £215 to £172.

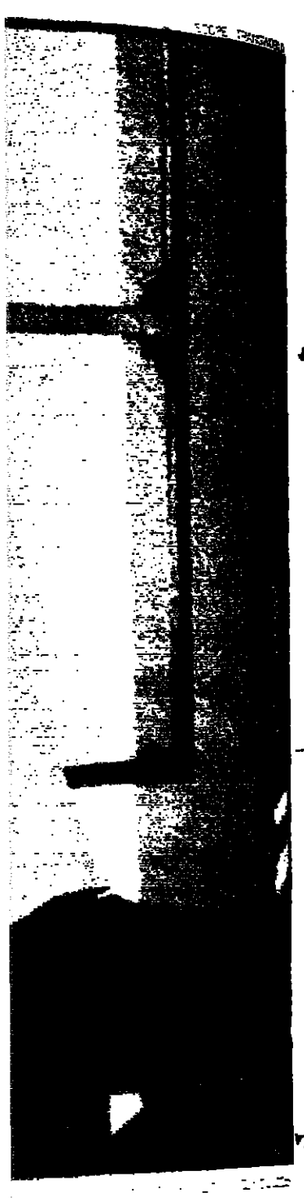
The neutrality of white endows it with a vastly attractive versatility. Impossible to think of spending your life in pink, say, or lime green, but you could easily do it in white, whose range encompasses Yohji Yamamoto's dark ivory wool jerkin, £205, knitted on needles the size of hockey sticks, with a riotous loopy trim at the armhole, neck and front edge, and Workers for Freedom's shadow-embroidered silk chiffon dresses, fragile and pale as dandelion clocks, £219.

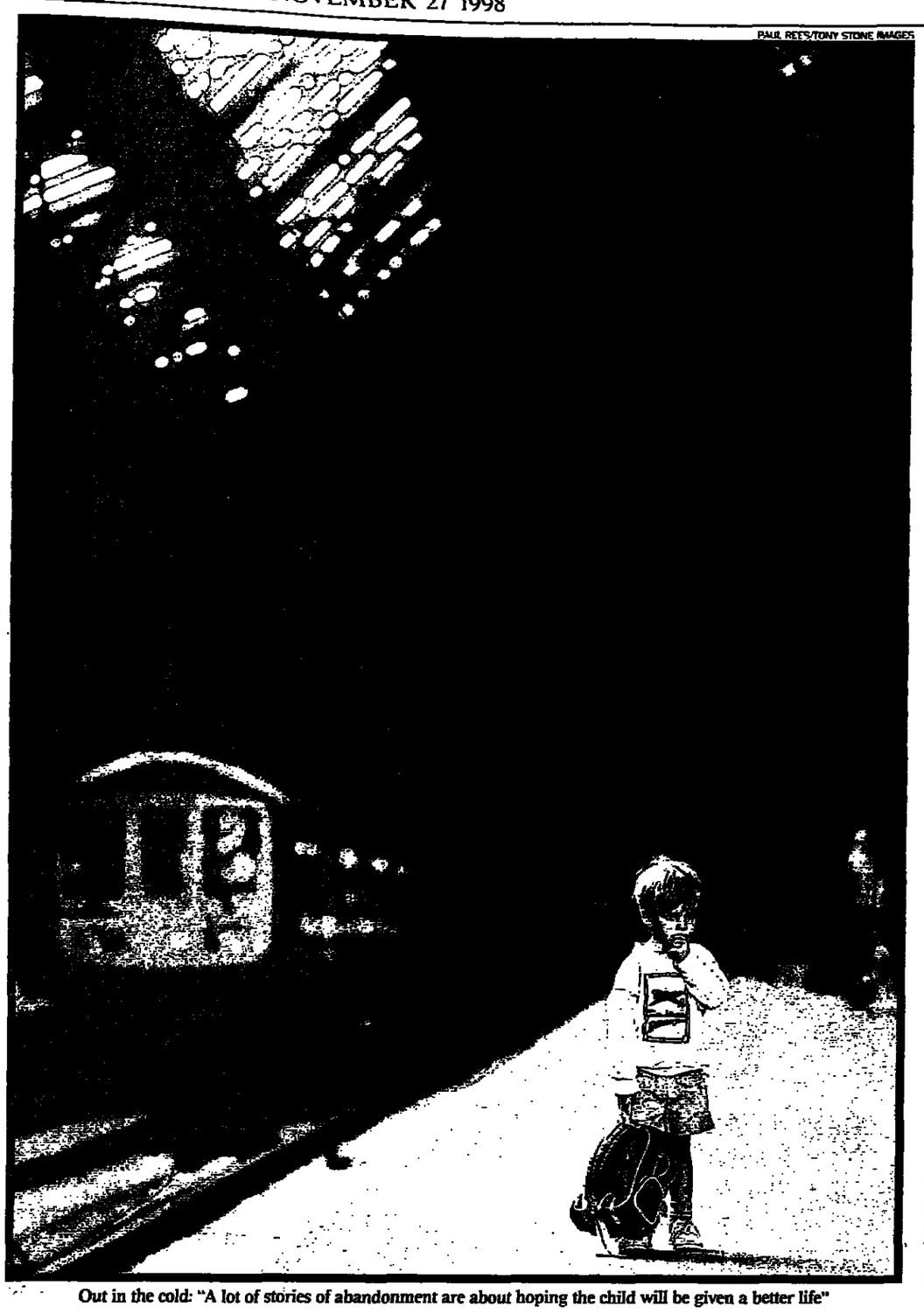
These are the extremes. Somewhere in the middle of the spectrum is Episode's slithery heavy cream crepe de Chine wide-leg pants, £139 (perfect with Jean Muir's white wool tunic from Jaeger, £200), and, for snow queens without the chip of ice in the heart, a sweetly simple boat-necked wool crepe shift, £139, as wholesome and appetising as vanilla ice-cream.



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PAUL REES/TONY STONE IMAGES

Out in the cold: "A lot of stories of abandonment are about hoping the child will be given a better life"

Not just a Grimm fairytale: the abandoned child

The forces that drive a mother to abandon her children, reworked in numerous myths and fairytales, are as strong as ever, says **Grace Bradberry**

What is it that drives a mother to abandon her children? Earlier this week Tracy Nolan hit the news. On holiday in Istanbul, she fell in love with a Jordanian boutique owner. Her husband obligingly flew home — but had to leave their three children behind. Nolan dealt with the problem by putting her offspring in a taxi to take them to the British Embassy.

Throughout history there have been cases of mothers abandoning their children and this seemingly unnatural act has been reworked in numerous myths and fairytales. Romulus and Remus were raised by a she-wolf after being abandoned beside the Tiber. Snow White is left in the forest on the orders of her stepmother. *Hansel and Gretel* also begins with the children abandoned by their parents.

In the Grimm fairytales, the act of abandonment is seen as at best morally ambivalent (the servant chooses to abandon rather than to kill Snow White but does not actively save her), at worst cruel. But Marina Warner, the author of *From the Blonde to the Beast* and *No Go The Bogeyman*, both studies of fairytales and mythology, points out that historically, abandoning children was not always an act of malice. "Famine, not being able to cope with rearing young children, was definitely something people told stories about.

"A lot of stories of abandonment are about hoping the child will be given a better life. In the first version of *Hansel and Gretel*, both parents agree that they can't cope, they are all starving, and they must leave the children in the woods. The Grimms found this horrendous, so they made the mother into a stepmother."

So the act of abandonment came to be seen as one of wickedness rather than despair. Yet the motive for most abandonments is judged by experts to be severe depression.

There are exceptions. The philosopher Rousseau, who did much to create the modern notion of childhood, abandoned his children on the steps of the foundling home. There is no evidence that he did so because of depression.

> The motive is judged by experts to be severe depression

In the Middle Ages, abandoning one's children in order to give them a better life received official religious sanction as an act of oblation: parents would hand over very young children as gifts to monasteries and convents. The practice is addressed in the historian John Boswell's book *The Kindness of Strangers*.

Such an idea would be shocking today, and indeed, many fairytales are rewritten in modern editions so that rather than being abandoned, children wander off of their own volition. There is a sense that whatever happens inside the home, what happens outside may well be worse — a fictionalising of our current fear of the badly intentioned stranger.

This is something that the artist Gigi Sudbury has picked up on in her exhibition of her own illustrated fairytales at Leighton House in London. "Rereading the Grimms' fairytales, the same themes are addressed again and again," she says. "They're about stability and staying with what you have."

We now see abandonment, far from offering children a better life, as robbing them of any stability, leaving them rootless and without identity. It is a more absolute state than being adopted, because an adopted child has the right to know the natural parents' names. Abandoned children who are not identified do not have even that option. They do not know where, when or to whom they were born and have spoken of the shock of seeing their birth certificates with the word "unknown" written in several boxes.

Mothers forced through destitution to abandon their children were often aware of this. Earlier this year there was a heartrending exhibition of keepsakes bequeathed by mothers who had left their babes at the gates of a foundling hospital 200 years ago. A hazelnut, a ragged square of embroidered cloth and a playing card were among the pathetic offerings left by women who dreamt that these would help them one day to identify and reclaim the babies.

One tends to assume that social security, the possibility of abortion, the support structure of healthcare and social workers, would have made such instances a thing of the past. Yet earlier this year official figures showed that the number of abandoned babies had tripled over the past ten years. The fairytales still have resonance.

Park now for next Christmas



The reason why getting a driving licence is such an emotional staging post for any young person is that when you sit behind a steering wheel and set off down the road for the first time you learn several important things about the wider world that teachers never bothered to tell you at school, such as the fact that there are many adults out there who are even more stupid than you.

The other thing you realise is that most drivers in London aren't going anywhere. They're cruising around trying to find a place to park so that they can finally get out and do their Christmas shopping. I'm referring, of course, to *last year's* Christmas shopping. They almost found a spot near Regent Street in August, but then they thought they might as well keep driving around in the hope of securing an early parking spot for *this* year's Christmas shopping.

Occasionally, these drivers, impelled by some primeval survival instinct, will execute their emergency two-step car-parking procedure, which involves:

Step 1. Tailing anyone who is walking down the street jangling a set of car keys in their hand (on the assumption that they will shortly be freeing up a parking space).

Step 2. Being philosophical when they find out that this person is not returning to a parked car (ie, having the sense to appreciate that with so much genuine suffering in the world — including wars and murder — it won't make any measururable difference to the global tally of senseless violence if they were to step out of their car and kill this person anyway).

One explanation of why bumper cars remain popular even when children grow into adults is that they are the only place where you can drive for hours without having to find a parking space yourself: there would be a lucrative future for any company that provided large tattooed men to hop onto your bonnet whenever you wanted to stop, and to steer you through congested traffic to a suitable parking spot the way those attendants do at the end of dodgem rides.

The other reason why bumper cars remain so popular with adults is that they allow you to bring basic faults in other people's driving skills to their attention in a way that you can rarely do on the open road without losing your no-claims bonus or getting arrested for assault. (You've probably noticed how frequently, when at the wheel, you find yourself shrieking, "Jeez, that driver is a complete idiot!", even though you're not a professional taxi driver. It's as if in your non-driving hours you only ever meet people with doctorates — You: "I would like a one-day travel card, please." Ticket seller: "Certainly, Sir, although why not start walking instead? As long as you took your first step before the train left this station, Zeno's paradox of the tortoise and Achilles shows that you would reach your destination before the train did".)

Americans have been smart enough to find their own solution to this age-old problem: yesterday they all drove home to celebrate Thanksgiving, established by the Pilgrim Fathers to give thanks for escaping Europe to settle in a country where every man and woman — regardless of race or religion — was able to find a parking space as late as the fourth Thursday of November, the day which traditionally launches the final 20 shopping days before Christmas. One solution to Europe's parking headache would be to sell cars the way they sell mobile phones. Just as mobile phones come in leather pouches, cars would be sold with their own parking space and user tariffs which determined how many minutes a day you could park in that space, with special rates when using your space to park near family and friends.

Or else there should be some sense of achievement associated with finding a parking space by making it an eligible Olympic sport. Watching drivers compete against the clock to locate the one vacant spot in a 20-storey car park would not only beat curling for excitement, but it would give France a rare chance to win a gold medal — Parisians having long mastered the skill of parking a car in a very tight space while simultaneously breaking the speed limit.

It has become so tough to park a car in London that the surest way to boost the value of your house would not be to install a new kitchen or to create a roof terrace, but to build a car ramp that led straight into the spare bedroom, thereby guaranteeing a parking space within a mile of your front door. If this strikes you as too drastic, there is still a way to ensure that your car is parked legally, thereby offering no reason for commission-hungry traffic wardens to be distracted from ogling the Denver Boot centrefold in *Car Clamper's Monthly*: this is by buying a car that is already parked in a legal spot. Then just travel everywhere by taxi.

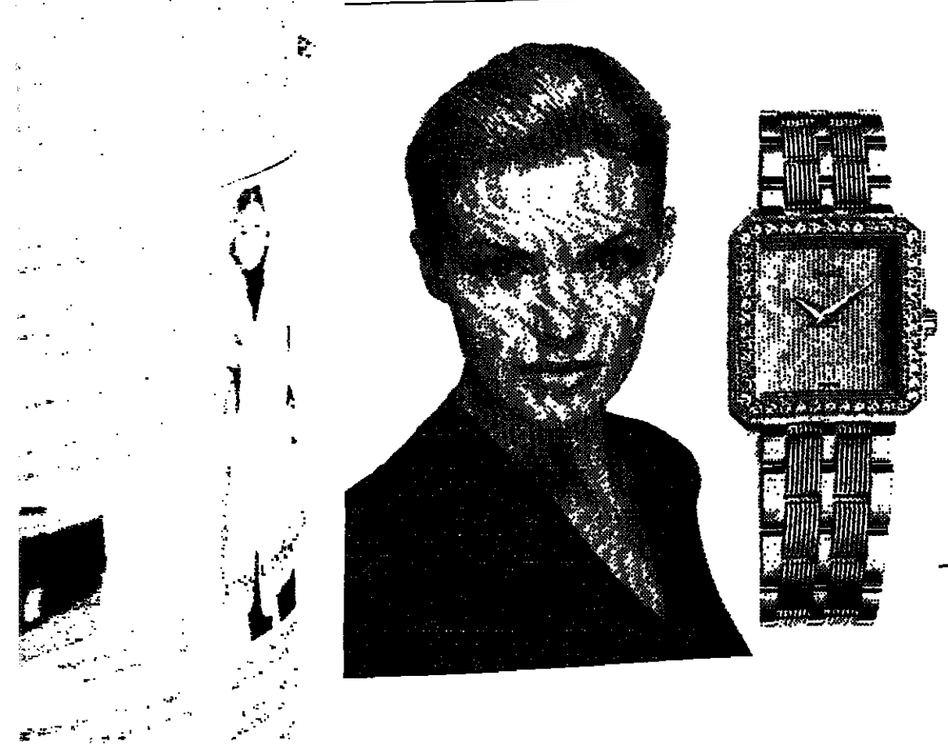
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The shame of London's schools

Mary Ann Sieghart on the rise of a new educational apartheid

The Labour MP was depressed and angry. "I sometimes wonder whether I shouldn't just chuck this job in," he said. He is not disillusioned with new Labour and Tony Blair — far from it. He just wants his children to have a proper education.

Having sent them to an excellent state primary school, he is now going through the traumas of finding a place for his oldest child at a decent secondary. At one selective state school, the parents were sizing each other up like passengers on the *Titanic*, knowing their children's lives were at stake but that only a few would win a coveted place. One of the comprehensives he was considering was more oversubscribed than Eton. But, because he is a Labour MP, he cannot do what his friends have reluctantly done, and go private.

Standards at state secondary schools in London are shockingly, disgracefully bad. This world-class capital city has third-class education. Most of the MP's left-wing friends have finally given up, and gone private, unhappy with themselves and furious with successive governments that have failed their children so dismally.

Between us, we reeled off a list of right-on London professionals who had sacrificed their ideology for their children's futures: Professor Ben Pimlott, *Channel 4 News*'s Jon Snow, the *New Statesman*'s Francis Beckett, and many more: barristers, bankers, media folk, political advisers. Others had bought expensive houses near to one of the few remaining successful state secondaries: capitalising their school fees rather than paying for them out of an income stream. And what of the Londoners who do not have that choice? Their children are condemned to low standards, low expectations, poor discipline and poor results.

> Today, anyone who can afford it is going private

Over kitchen tables around the capital, the talk always seems to revert to "education, education, education". Among my contemporaries, it replaced "house prices, house prices, house prices" a long time ago. But it is a lot more depressing. I was lucky enough to find a very good state primary for our two children; but in just three years' time we shall be facing the same dilemma as my Labour friend. At least, unlike him, we have the choice of going private, albeit with crippling financial consequences.

But I don't want my children braying. I don't want them to be comparing skiing holidays and BMW models with their classmates. I want for them a broad social mix. Most of all, I have paid my taxes, and I don't see why I should not get a decent standard of education in return.

Talk to education ministers, though, and they dismiss it as "just a London problem". *Just* a London problem? First, it is also a Birmingham problem, a Manchester problem, and a Liverpool problem. But anyway, London contains one seventh of England's population and, because of the country's centralisation, a much higher proportion of its wealth-creators, jurists, policy-makers, financiers and opinion-formers. The state of its schools ought to matter.

It also has many of the richest and the poorest people in the land living side by side. Yet they are not educated side by side. Instead, almost anyone who can afford it (and that includes desperately thrifty Asians and blacks) opts out. Instead of the ideal of the comprehensive, where the son of the streetsweeper sits next to the daughter of the duke, there is *educational apartheid*.

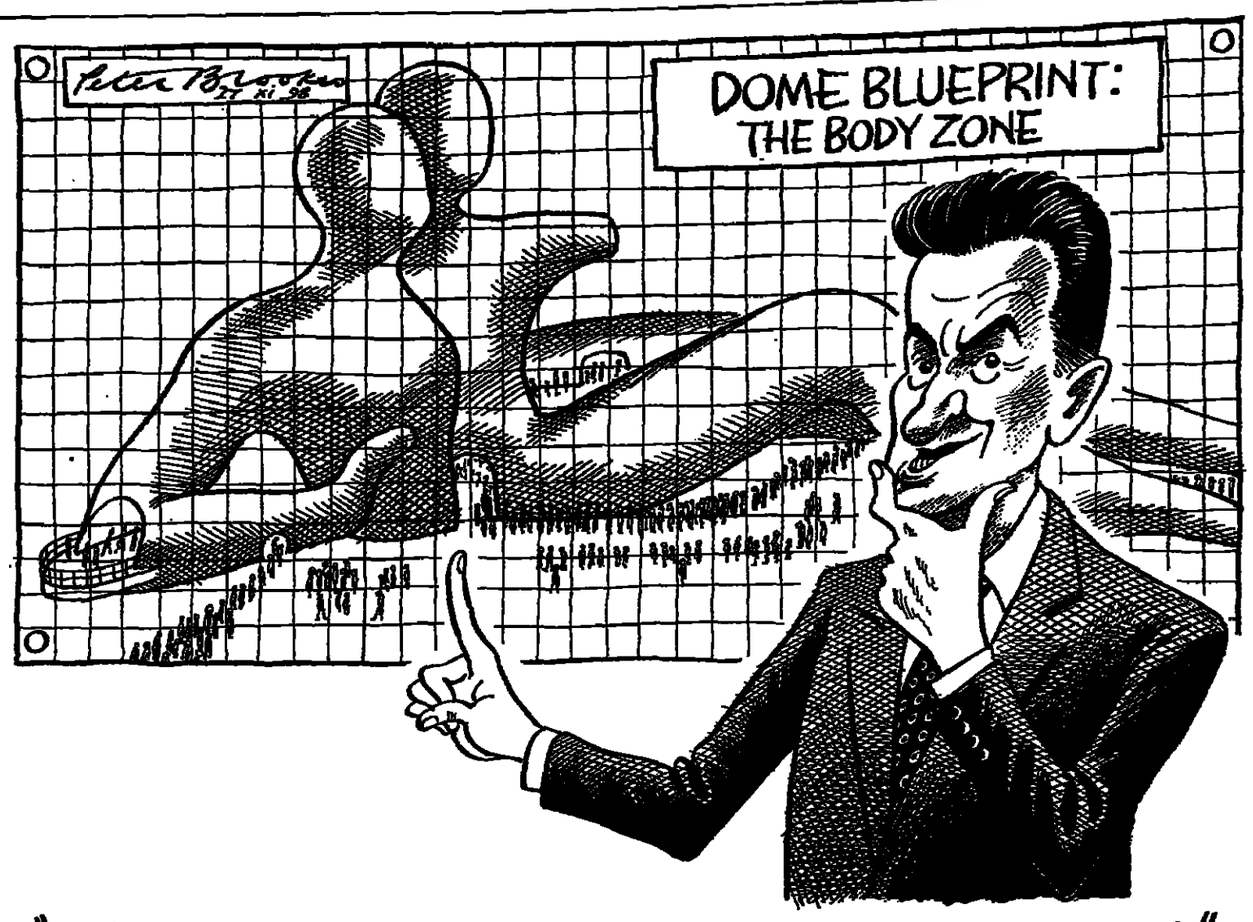
This is the apartheid that we ought to worry about, not the "apartheid" of selection. For it was the grammar and direct grant schools that did ensure that children of all classes were educated together. Even now, the very few selective schools in Outer London attract a wonderfully broad social spread, with lots of ethnic minority parents who understand the importance of excellence in education for their children's life chances.

Indeed, it was Bernie Grant, the black MP for Tottenham and firebrand of the Left, who, to the astonishment of his colleagues, stood up for Harriet Harman at the Parliamentary Labour Party meeting when she was being excoriated for sending her son to a selective state school. He fulminated against the comprehensives that had given his children such a terrible education. The *bien-pensant* white liberals were silenced.

Another black MP, Paul Boateng, has managed to get away with educating some of his children privately. So, inevitably, has Geoffrey Robinson. But most Labour politicians get into trouble even for patronising grant-maintained state schools which do not select by ability.

And now the few remaining grammar schools, not just in London but around the country, are being threatened with parental ballots. For a Government supposedly committed to excellence, this is outrageous. Children, of whatever ability, learn best when taught alongside others of similar ability. Private schools have always understood the point of diversity, of "horses for courses". So does the German system, which has infinitely better state schools than ours. And why are French women so well dressed? Because they can afford to be — they don't pay school fees.

If Inner London had five or ten "beacon" schools, aimed at the brightest children in the capital, thousands of parents would desert the private sector and come back to state schools. And thousands of clever working-class children would have a chance to fulfil their potential. An end to class divides; opportunity regardless of wealth. What could be more new Labour than that?



A most fitting conclusion

The transformation of a venerable tailors into a bookshop is yet another example our literary renaissance

Simpson's Piccadilly is to close. The citadel of gentlemen's tailoring is becoming a Jermyn Street boutique. I can hardly believe it. During the school holidays, inspired by *The History of Mr Polly* and £6 a week, I sold tweed jackets at Simpson's at 10 per cent off.

Our department was a model for *Are You Being Served?* Its head was a Mr Creed, who never sat down lest he damage his trouser creases and would not let us do so either. Simpson's was a place of timeless composure. It clothed the Empire. Yet Simpson's is to close. Is the Queen still on the throne?

That is not the half of it. Simpson's entire building is to become a bookshop. It is to be the largest bookshop in the world, a "department bookstore" in Piccadilly, flagship of the new Waterstone's empire. There will be books galore. There will be reading areas, coffee lounges, poetry corners, Internet access points. The preserve of camel hair, worsted and cavalry twill is to be seized by Tennyson and Yeats, Shakespeare and O'Neill, Tolstoy and Trollope. Where the Wooster brogues once sought a new pair of spats or a Christmas gift for Jeeves, will now thunder the trainers of the reading classes. The prospect is awful. This dumbing-up of London has gone too far.

Eight minutes' walk from Simpson's is Maggs Bros. Maggs is in a different class. It occupies what must be the oldest completely unaltered house in London, at 50 Berkeley Square. The firm, under Earnest and Uriah Maggs, was founded in 1853 and moved from Conduit Street to Berkeley Square in the 1930s. It has been trading there ever since. The house is like the Bodleian or the London Library, where every pore oozes book, but in Maggs's case the books are old. It is the apotheosis of the second-hand bookshop.

Maggs has books in the front room and the back room. There are books on the stairs and books in the attic. There are books in glass cases, in sideboards and cupboards. Open any door and out will spill a dusty volume with a dusty scholar ensnared in its pages. Staff are fluent in Spanish, Latin, Hebrew, whatever. On my last visit, an American student was translating some Italian letters from Pound. Maggs hires its staff for their scholarship not their salesmanship.

Nothing at Maggs can equal its "downstairs". The old Georgian servants' quarters survive intact: pantries, butteries, wine cellars, a game larder with hooks still in place. A passage under the garden leads to the mews, with carriage yard and stables. Here are the cobbles and run-offs, the mangers and hayloft, the tiny bedrooms for the ostlers and grooms, still numbered. And every inch is books. Books are stacked, crammed, jumbled and squeezed, even on top of the ancient privies. Shelves in the stables are so close together that only the thinnest staff can possibly use them. The books are old, some on the point of disintegration, as if book, wall, lath and plaster were born of the same chemistry and will soon sink happily together into the London clay. I know of no London house, not even a Tudor or medieval relic, that retains so complete an aura of antiquity as Maggs. It must never be touched.

Simon Jenkins

Maggs is not Waterstone's. Maggs and its genteel rivals, Quaritch, are the Sotheby's and Christie's of the antiquarian book world. They are summoned across the world when a Gutenberg emerges from a castle vault or a Codex drops from an Assisi rafter. Their books are more than Milton's "vials of pure intellect". They are things of beauty in their own right, furnishing the eye as well as the mind. As long as Maggs is in Berkeley Square, the nightingale will not want for lyrics.

But back to Waterstone's. When I worked at Simpson's, proper bookshops were regarded as dead. There was Foyle's, Hatchard's, Bumpus, and Truslove and Hanson. Apart from Blackwell's in Oxford and Heffer's in Cambridge there were only some 20 bookshops carrying a full range of titles in England. Television and WH Smith had done for them all. Such, we were told, was the way of the world. Richard Hoggart's cultural crisis had no more obvious talisman than bookshop closure.

How strange that now, amid a similar climate of cultural gloom, the bookshop should be surging back to life. There are ten times more full-range bookshops than there were two decades ago. There is a bookshop on every town high street. The collapse of resale price maintenance — an event predicted to destroy traditional bookselling — has done no such thing. There are bookshops in museums, stations and supermarkets. There is even a bookshop in Trafalgar Square. The American firm of Borders is about to open a chain of its celebrated bookshop-cafés, where customers can drink, read and only perhaps buy books. This is a true university of the street, the library privatised yet communalised.

Those who pose as custodians of culture outdo even the farmers in their whingeing. Last week the Oxford University Press announced that it was closing down its modern poetry list as an economy move. This was seized by the arts lobby as another sign of degeneration, echoing that in live theatre, the quality press, academic standards and the Turner Prize. A stanza of poets wrote to *The Times* demanding state subsidy and government action. Yet poetry is doing fine. This week appears that regular bestseller, *Poems on the Underground*, a collection of verses old and new printed in Tube carriages. This happy innovation is now imitated in city trains round the world, in New York, Paris, Dublin, Stuttgart, Barcelona, Athens, Shanghai, Moscow and Stockholm.

Britain's leading poetry publisher, Faber, makes a handsome profit on its poetry list. Ask a bookshop what sells well at Christmas and poetry anthologies come hard on the heels of manuals and biographies. Any home that calls itself civilised will have poetry on its shelf. Oxford may have trouble managing its list, but that hardly heralds the collapse of culture. As the editors of *Poems on the Underground* point out, the writing of poetry, public reading of poetry and listening to poetry and selling poetry borders on a national obsession. Pubs and arts festivals are stuffed with it. To say poetry is dead is as nonsensical as to say the same of the bookshop. Poetry may be the most private of passions, Wordsworth's "emotion recollected in tranquillity". But the public has learnt that it can nowhere be better recollected than in those silent, solitary moments on the Tube.

I salute Waterstone-at-Simpson's, as I salute Maggs and *Poems on the Underground*. In the beginning was always the word. The word is now come to market. The word in print, the smearing of ink on paper, has seen off every technology since Caxton, and will see off plenty more. In his novel *The Storyteller* Mario Vargas Llosa wonders why it was that primitive Amazon tribes revealed to anthropologists every aspect of their lives, even their religion, except one.

They kept secret only the doings of the *habladores*, their storytellers. Their story was the secret chord on which their identity and thus their survival depended. The storyteller was never still, always listening, walking, talking, always "on his way". He was the word, the private bond of community.

The bookshop is our temple of that word. It stands on its rock, firm against the waves of digital, online, website, disc and screen, as it has stood firm against newsprint, radio and cinema. More books are bought today than ever before. Like the storyteller, the bookshop carries the message. It watches, listens, holds the tribal secrets tight bound on its shelves. Like the storyteller, it refreshes its message with new titles every day. The tribe will always follow.

When Sir Robert Walpole retired from politics to his palace of Houghton, he went to his favourite room, the library. He took down one book after another and tried to read it. Eventually, it is said, he burst into tears. He realised that after an active life, he had lost the art of reading. Thanks to Waterstone's, Maggs and *Poems on the Underground*, I sense that art is stronger today.

Philip Howard



■ If only England could play with more brains . . .

British sportsmen are the terrors of the world for their success, skill and modesty. Before this heavy sporting weekend they are lucky to be supported by the back-up of a reserve squad of dead intellectuals who were nearly as good at their sports as they are.

Ayer, A.J: This aggressive all-rounder would stiffen our middle-order batting at Perth. Ayer is famous for his cavalier treatment of short-pitched thinking, pulling it for six as unverifiable and therefore literally as senseless as a no-ball. Like Hobbs (Jack, not *Leviathan*), he divides all bowling into two classes: those which concern danger to the wicket (analytic), and those which threaten danger to the person (synthetic). He treats both with unfalsifiable technique. Ayer would also be useful at sledging the Australians with his ice-cold invective.

Caesar, J (captain): A controversial selection, not least because of doubts about Caesar's qualifications on the strength of two short overseas tours here in 55 and 54BC. But he talked himself into the job with the help of his fan club, the Legionaries. He would bring speed and generalship to England's midfield. Authoritative at dealing with the manager's soothsayer. He was famous for his speed about the field. His autobiography, though self-serving, has introduced millions of children to the pleasures of footy. Rumoured to fake injury during March.

Wittgenstein, Ludwig: He qualifies for England because of his long years of service with Cambridge Disunited. An all-rounder at all sports. Indeed, he treated life and language as kinds of games, and, unlike the logical positionists, allows for the possibility of the fly-half passing the ball out. With him playing language games at the base of the scrum, England can surely beat Australia at Twickenham. If an England prop could speak, he would not understand himself.

Van der Post, Laurens: Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski are both on court at Hanover today. But Laurens, known by fans as "van der Pump", was the British number 1 with the white woolly balls. A master at disguising the direction, pace and content of his service.

Johnson, Samuel: At Newbury for the Hennessy Gold Cup tomorrow, he would be a worthy sit-in jock for Venetia Williams's Teeton Mill. Sam's favourite horsesport was trotting (or harness-racing), in a postchaise, with a pretty woman. He may be a bit overweight, but that should cause no problems with this hot favourite. A fine judge of horseflesh as well as female flesh: "A fly, Sir, may sting a hunter-chaser and make him wince; but one is but an insect, and the other is a horse still."

Shakespeare, W: Another all-round sportsman who can play anywhere on any field. He too should be riding at Newbury. In the same play he shows championship form with tennis-balls, golf ("I dare not chip; but I will wink and hold out mine iron"), and speed over the jumps: "When I bestride my horse, I soar, I am a hawk; he trots the air; the earth sings when he touches it."

Russell, B: Another controversial selection. He does not command a great deal of respect from the rest of the team, but his knowledge of the opposition is unparalleled. He reduces football strategy to a mathematical precision: "Every managerial problem, when it is subjected to the necessary analysis and justification, is found either to be not really about football at all, or else to be, in the sense in which we are using the word, logical."

With such substitutes, British teams could perform with even more confidence and flair tomorrow. The great dead thinkers are less well paid than our modern sportsmen. They are almost as argumentative, but more articulate. They are not strictly team-players, being almost as self-centred as our millionaire sportsmen. But they make a team that can challenge the world. And they have a bottom of good sense (especially Dr Johnson) which is badly needed in the scrums and the saddles of English sport of pigs managed by donkeys.

Spooked out

DONS at Peterhouse, Cambridge, are so worried by the ghost reputedly haunting its cloisters that they have appointed a new Dean to exorcise him. Ben Quash, who takes up the position next April, is to be asked to perform the ceremony in the college's hall and its adjoining Senior Combination Room, where the old boy has been sighted. Dr Graham Ward, the departing Dean, summoned a diocesan exorcist earlier in the year but failed to quell the nocturnal knockings. "We shall certainly be asking the new Dean to exorcise the ghost," a don at Peterhouse tells me. The ceremony is to be "among his first duties".

The ghost, thought by some to be Francis Dawes, a Peterhouse bursar who hanged himself with a bell rope in 1789 after irregularities over the election of a Master, has been worrying members of staff for several years. The Senior Bursar, Dr Andrew Murison, and two of the college butlers claim separately to have seen it glide slowly across the oak-panelled 13th-century Combination Room before vanishing.

A year ago, it has emerged, an alleged sighting reduced the head butler to a quivering wreck during Formal Hall. Cynics suggest this was a deliberate ploy to end a lengthy after-dinner speech that showed little sign of stopping.

● *TENDING to Mohamed Al Fayed at a Baltimore hospital has been one of the world's leading cloning experts. I just thought his friends such as Peter Mandelson would be happy to hear this news.*

Charlie's angles

CHARLIE WHELAN has knobbled the peer who was to rule on his shadowy methods in the House of Lords. The Chancellor's garrulous press enforcer faces a kangaroo court hearing in the Lords which will uncover the murky truth behind his Red Lion briefings. Lord Peston, a Labour peer, has been asked to chair and decide whether Whelan should be extradited from the Treasury.

Fate, and mischievous seating at the *Spectator* lunch, brought Whelan next to his nemesis. The convivial lunch concluded, Whelan emerged victorious: "We had a nice chat and Peston agrees there is no case to answer. This investigation isn't going to happen." We'll see.

● *HER conversion to Judaism has brought material as well as amatorial fruits for Santa Sebag Montefiore. Chanukah is the first Jewish celebration to be encountered by the newly-wed Santa and she can hardly wait. "The great thing," Santa tells me, "is that it lasts eight days, on each of which you get presents." Soon she will be able to write a learned work:* Theology for an It Girl, *perhaps.*

Don't tell Cliff

COVER your ears, Sir Cliff. Una Stubbs, the charming actress who nearly lured the housewives' favourite from a life of celibacy, has given birth to a ghetto-style wannabe hip-hop star. Joe Stubbs (the one in the middle), the 25-year-old progeny of the slick-heeled actress, is enjoying his first hit single with a "rap posse" entitled *Freestylers*. His lively tunes have charmed youngsters by employing a street argot commonly associated with natives of New York's Bronx district. "Joe doesn't swear at home," says Una. "He has never been a very aggressive boy."

● *WILLIAM HAGUE has swallowed his pride and is making secret overtures to Paddy Ashdown. Although dismissive of Tony Blair's attempts to cosy up to the Liberal Democrats, Hague has sent a Shadow Cabinet emissary to explore areas of mutual interest with Paddy's people. Gary Streeter, the Shadow International Development spokesman, held a secret meeting with Nick Harvey, Ashdown's head of campaigns, to discuss tactics over the single currency. "Gary wanted to know whether Lib Dem Eurosceptics would be allowed to join with the Tories in campaigning against the single currency in a referendum campaign. Nick is very sceptical himself, so he was sympathetic," says a matchmaker. Denis MacShane, Labour's Euro tactician, is incredulous: "If the Tories need to trawl Paddy's mob for anti-European support, they really are in trouble."*



Going short

RABBI SHMULEY BOTEACH'S take on sex is a turn-off. The author of *Kosher Sex* has acknowledged that controversy about his bestselling sex manual has reduced donations to L'Chaim Society, the charity he runs.

The Orthodox rabbi, taking part in the final of *The Times*'s "Preacher of the Year" competition, admits his smut has "cost at least £100,000" in donations. Two governors have also thrown in their skull caps in disgust. Because of the loss, the society has cut its budget by one third and downgraded its London HQ. Boteach, who sold extracts of his book to *Playboy*, says: "Money is extremely tight." Perhaps he should pen *Further Joys of Kosher Sex* to raise some funds.



● *OPENING lines, courtesy of the oily Nigel Havers. Caprice (above) was modelling lingerie and jewellery for an auction. Havers studied her breasts and said: "Caprice. There's one thing everyone wants to know. Are they real?" "You mean the jewellery don't you?" Caprice replied, more cleverly.*

JASPER GERARD

مكتبة من الأصل

TIMES PAST — THE TIMES — FUTURE

A DEBT UNPAID

Japan's refusal to offer China a written apology is inexcusable

President Jiang Zemin's visit to Japan is the first by a Chinese head of state since the Second World War. His ceremonial gift to Emperor Akihito of a pair of crested ibises, all but extinct in Japan, elegantly symbolised China's intention to make this historic, meticulously prepared, event a new beginning in the difficult relationship between Asia's two pre-eminent powers. New beginnings are a cliché of diplomacy; but in this case, the horrors of war invest it with real meaning. China's overture has been ill-rewarded by Japan's Government, which has gratuitously angered and offended all Chinese by its stubborn and foolish refusal to include in the written *joint communiqué* the simple word, sorry.

All that Japan summoned the courage and decency to offer was an oral reminder by its Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, that in 1995 the then Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, offered a "heartfelt apology" to all Asians on the 50th anniversary of Japan's defeat. Since it is well known that Mr Murayama was attacked at the time for saying even that much, Japan would do better not to keep referring back, as it does to all aggrieved nations, to that statement.

As for the written document to be signed by both Governments, Japan insisted that it could contain no word stronger than "deep regret". China, understandably, therefore refused to sign it. Tokyo claims that it has already apologised and cannot forever continue to rake over old evils. But if this is true — and China maintains that Japan's veiled language has never been explicit — why the taboo on committing the apology unequivocally to paper?

The inescapable impression created is that Japan is incapable of outright apology to China, because the Japanese still feel no real guilt about atrocities committed against the Chinese by its Imperial Army. Since face is as important in Japan as it is in China, Tokyo cannot be unaware of the domestic embarrassment this causes to President Jiang, who has shown some political courage in attempting to put the relationship on a constructive new footing. Yet Japanese officials have compounded the Government's error by saying that Japan does not owe China the same degree of contrition as it does to South Korea, where Mr Obuchi last month signed a written statement expressing Japan's "deep remorse" and "heartfelt apology" for the past. That, they say, is because Japan actually colonised the Korean peninsula.

But this is mere sophistry. Japan may not formally have colonised China, but it indubitably and illegally occupied it from 1931, when it invaded Manchuria, to 1945. China paid with the lives of up to 20 million citizens. By no means all were killed in fighting. Many died in concentration camps or forced labour gangs; some were the victims of medical experiments as appalling as any conducted by the Nazis. And the Nanjing Massacre of 1937 ranks with the most terrible war crimes in history. What Japan, when it is spoken of at all, still refers to as an "incident", cannot be ascribed to military indiscipline. Mass killings, looting and the rape, including mass rape, of 20,000 girls and women, continued for six weeks after Japan's armies poured through the eastern gate. A third of Nanjing was put to the torch. The evidence points to a deliberate decision to terrorise China into submission.

Mr Jiang's impeccable response to Japan's blunder has been to promise to "develop friendly relations" with the Japanese people, who were also victims of the militarist wartime leadership. But, he pointedly remarked, it is up to the Japanese Government to "contain the denial and distortion of history". It is advice that Tokyo should take — and not just because these were statesmanlike words but because they speak the truth.

GENTLEMEN AND PLAYERS

The Downing Street staff will and should expand

Some cogs in the machinery of government are bigger than others. The forthcoming departure of John Holmes as Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister will leave an especially large hole at the centre of Downing Street. Mr Holmes's duties included foreign policy, Northern Ireland, international crises such as those concerning Iraq and Kosovo, as well as No 10's relations with Buckingham Palace and the Opposition. It is hardly surprising that Tony Blair is finding him a hard man to replace and has considered splitting his post between two civil servants.

The Prime Minister has faced considerable criticism for expanding the size of his personal office during his period in power. The charge of "presidentialism" has been raised against him much as it was for Margaret Thatcher. If the departure of Mr Holmes were to result in even the slightest further advance in the numbers around Mr Blair then such gibes will be repeated. Yet the sheer range of activities that the Principal Private Secretary is expected to cover, and the hours that are involved in the enterprise, would not suggest that Downing Street is awash with officials.

The character of government, not partisan or personal conspiracy, has placed an extraordinary strain on the modern Prime Minister's office. In a touching reminder of the enduring power of Parkinson's Law, the advent of modern technology — from e-mail to the Internet — has served only to enhance an already intensive workload. The European Union now produces paperwork, often of a controversial nature, that would have been unimaginable a decade ago. The needs of the media mean that civil servants are expected to provide information at ever-increasing speed.

All these demands involve questions of political sensitivity. For all the oft-made accusations to the contrary, Whitehall norms demand that many of these matters are dealt with only by a limited number of appointees within Downing Street. A small number of seconded civil servants, such as Mr Holmes, operate at the centre of this complex. Even after Mr Blair's efforts to enhance his entourage, he is surrounded by far fewer figures than most of his European or American counterparts.

The office is also uniquely personal. It relies on a close and informal relationship between the Prime Minister and those around him. It is also shaped by the personality and philosophy of the politician who serves as Prime Minister. Mrs Thatcher and now Mr Blair have seen themselves as policy initiators. Others such as John Major, in the early part of his tenure, chose something closer to a co-ordinating role. The numbers and nature of those at the centre is fluid. It ebbs and flows with the political position of the Prime Minister of the moment.

Mr Blair remains in far more danger of possessing too few, not too many, institutional resources. The business of his Government rests on the efforts of a small number of people. It would not be in Mr Blair's interest to acquire a full-scale Prime Minister's Department. The advantages in manpower would be outweighed by the extra unwanted problems of administrative management. He is, however, entitled to seek further expansion of his staff. The Conservatives may find it convenient to chase modest political advantage from this development: a future Tory Prime Minister is unlikely to decide to reverse the direction that Mr Blair has taken.

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

Help The Times to fill the empty library shelves

Oliver Goldsmith thought the pleasure of reading an excellent book was like gaining "a new friend". Sadly, some children never make such friends. Traditionalists blame this on the irresistible distractions of television and computer games, whose fast-moving addictive images leave little to the imagination and require scant effort to understand. In today's school playgrounds, where to be "cool" a child must have the latest, newest gimmick, it is a struggle to convince pupils that reading a book can provide as much entertainment as watching a cartoon.

Persuasive though this argument may sound, it ignores a salient fact. For even if chidren want to read, many schools have too few books to lend them. Every pupil in secondary education needs an average of 15 books even to cover the national curriculum properly. Yet, according to the Library Association, the national average of books per pupil is only nine. Sharing books between children is now commonplace.

The Free Books for Schools scheme, to be launched next year by News International papers and Walkers Snack Foods, aims to help schools to replenish their libraries with millions of books from an extensive list, including novels, atlases, picture books, audio and braille titles. From Shakespeare to Sherlock Holmes, C.S. Lewis to Aldous Huxley, children will have a chance to heed Henry Thoreau's advice: "Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them at all."

No government or local authority will ever be able to satisfy every school's demand for new tomes. Every academic year boasts at least one Molesworth who manages to blot, lose or partially destroy his or her books. Budgets are increasingly stretched as head teachers try to equip their schools with computers. Although children need to be trained for the rigours of the high-tech workplace, books are still the most effective laptop educational aid any pupil can have. In the coming months *The Times* will be asking its readers to take their part in a campaign in which, at no extra cost, they can put more books into more schools.

A book does not need to be plugged into a mains socket, has no keyboard to master or mouse to control. Pop it into a pocket or dump it in a rucksack, drop it off a desk or throw it across a classroom, a book provides a durable and accessible way of teaching a child how to read. And if a child cannot read, a computer is reduced to a redundant piece of plastic.

Books remain the best way of passing knowledge between the generations, sparking children's creativity, kindling their imagination and provoking curiosity. Encouraging pupils to read is an investment in the future and, more crucially, the most valuable gift children can be given.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Home Secretary's dilemma on Pinochet extradition

From the Vice-Chairman of the British/Chilean Chamber of Commerce

Sir, It is with astonishment and disbelief that I have seen Great Britain embroiled in the arrest of General Pinochet at the request of a politically motivated Spanish judge. The military takeover of the Government of Chile in September 1973 was supported at the time by most of the citizens of Chile and by all the Nato countries. The situation at that time constituted a civil war.

I cannot see how unleashing a one-sided international campaign of "justice" can solve or redeem crimes committed at the height of the Cold War in a far away country a generation ago. That's a matter for the Chileans.

Britain became a great nation by being pragmatic in its relationships with its trading partners. The Government does not have a mandate to play Robin Hood to the world. Its function is to further British interests, not to subordinate them to third-party causes.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. HARCOMBE,
Vice-Chairman, British/Chilean Chamber of Commerce,
Avenida Suecia 155,
Providencia, Santiago.
November 25.

From Professor Guy S. Goodwin-Gill

Sir, The Home Secretary may wish to be spared the ultimate decision, and may regret the discretion left to him, whether to implement the extradition order.

Would this not be the moment to put the question to the House of Commons on a free vote, both to see the extent to which our elected representatives are sensitive to the issues of law and justice, and also to confirm, one way or another, the measure of our national responsibility?

Yours etc,
GUY S. GOODWIN-GILL
(Professor of International Refugee Law),
Wolfson College,
Oxford OX2 6UD.
guy.goodwin-gill@wolfson.ox.ac.uk
November 26.

From Mr Anthony Quick

Sir, The conduct of our senior courts of law over the Pinochet case has been a picture of confusion: five senior judges have ruled that he has immunity, three that he has not.

If the judges do not know what the law is, this vacuum can only be filled by Parliament passing a statute. Otherwise we will be faced by the situation, common in the US, where the law depends on the personal predilections of members of the Supreme Court. In Britain it will be worse, as only five law lords are required for a decision, thus giving their selector great powers of manipulation.

There is an overwhelming case that on sensitive political issues like abortion, capital punishment and extradition the law should be made by Parliament and not by a chance collection of lawyers.

Yours,
ANTHONY QUICK,
Corbin, Scoriton,
Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0HU.
November 26.

From Mr Sergio Lopez-Pugh

Sir, Pinochet led a government that was hard on its enemies, but it turned Chile into a country where you can be proud of being a citizen. All Chileans felt the burden, and we lived with it for 17 years. Then we had a vote on whether he would continue, and he stepped down, according to the constitution we had voted and approved. We elected a democratic government. Then we elected another.

It is up to us, the Chileans, to determine how best to do justice for the awful things that happened here. We have our laws, and we were going through a process of reconciliation and restrengthening of our democracy. The wound was healing. Now Judge Baltazar Garzón has managed to open it wide again.

Isn't life funny? The Spaniards had to live with Franco for 40 years. We had Pinochet for only 17, and they come to tell us how to conduct our business?

It is about time Europeans understood that for 170 years we have stopped being a colony.

Your etc,
SERGIO LOPEZ-PUGH,
Av. El Bosque Norte 0226/b02,
Santiago,
sergio@bigfoot.com
November 26.

From Mr John Lidstone

Sir, The question of General Pinochet's guilt or innocence for crimes committed whilst he was Chile's head of state has been so compromised by politicians prejudging his guilt and making their verdicts public that he could not be arraigned before a British court.

Consequently a British judge would have to rule that it would be almost impossible to empanel an impartial jury to ensure that he had a fair trial.

Presumably the Spanish judiciary would face the same dilemma.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LIDSTONE,
East Lodge,
2 Orchard Fields,
Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8SN.
November 26.

National Trust accountability

From Mrs Clare McLaren-Throckmorton

Sir, As the National Trust donor-tenant of this house on a 300-year lease, and also as an Exmoor estate owner, I found myself obliged to propose a resolution on rural issues at the trust's recent AGM (letters, November 12 and 17).

I suggested that the trust should redefine its rural, commercial and management policies, concerning which I regard it as non-accountable, insufficiently transparent and frequently inconsistent; it also fails to consult the tenants and neighbours most closely affected by its rural policies, as Roger Scruton states in his article of November 23, "Don't betray our Trust to the townies". At the last minute the trust rejected my request for an independent think-tank but agreed to establish an internal committee to report on these issues.

My view is that an external independent committee is essential, as such a large monopoly charity is neither subject to an outside regulator nor to the National Audit Office. The Charities Commission is not a substitute for either body.

Neither farmer nor donor-family tenants are allowed to stand for the council of the National Trust, thereby depriving it of the benefit of receiving the true views of the countryside at first hand and in confidence.

Yours sincerely,
CLARE McLAREN-THROCKMORTON,
Coughton Court, Alcester,
Warwickshire B49 5JA.
November 24.

Change in countryside

From the President of the Country Landowners Association

Sir, I suggest that some of Roger Scruton's remarks (November 23) on the demise of the countryside need to be founded on firmer ground. Restructuring of farms into bigger units results from economic need: farms, after all, are businesses — a simple fact that some would seek to forget.

There is a case to be made that *some* common agricultural policies have encouraged *some* intensification of farming with *some* impact on landscape and wildlife habitat. But, overall, landowners and farmers regard their countryside stewardship responsibilities as core requirements of land management. The British countryside is not in terminal decay, as Scruton implies; it remains a treasured asset.

And who are these absentee investors? In England and Wales, 70 per cent of all rural land is farmed by landowner/occupiers; what remains is largely farmed under tenancy agreements with local owners.

Farming and the land-use of our countryside is on the brink of radical change as CAP reform evolves. The challenge now is to manage this period of change with sustainable policies for our agriculture, the environment and, above all, for our rural communities.

These policies are the best way to end the false conflict between town and country.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MacNICOL,
President,
Country Landowners Association,
16 Belgrave Square,
London SW1X 8PQ.
November 25.

European elections

From Dr Nick Palmer, MP for Broxtowe (Labour)

Sir, Sir Norman Fowler, MP, claims (letter, November 24; see also letters, November 17, 18, 20 and 21) that most Labour backbenchers are secretly opposed to the closed-list proposals for elections to the European Parliament. As a backbencher who was not able to speak in the debate, but who has experienced open lists in practice while campaigning with social democratic parties on the Continent, may I point out their fundamental flaw?

To succeed in an open-list system, a candidate must not only help his party do well, but also do better than other candidates from his own party. This forces all candidates to conduct expensive personal media campaigns.

Wealthy candidates start with a massive advantage, and the principle of fair access to democracy which the party system seeks to promote is undermined. Anyone on a low income would be doomed from the start, unless they could find wealthy backers.

For the Lords to insist five times on this system in the name of democracy is, frankly, bizarre. Well-meaning but politically naive peers have been manipulated by a cynical Opposition.

Yours faithfully,
NICK PALMER,
House of Commons.
November 24.

From Mr Douglas W. A. Blye

Sir, Baroness Jay of Paddington claims that the Lords are applying to the closed-list proposals principles different from those in the Bill for a Scottish parliament.

In Scotland the majority (73) of MSPs will be elected from constituencies and the rest (56) selected from party lists; but under the Government's European proposals all UK members will be selected from party lists. She is not, therefore, comparing like with like.

Hers is, in this regard at least, the kind of disingenuous statement which has become the hallmark of the Government.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS W. A. BLYE.
Middlefield, The Street,
Goodnestone, Canterbury CT3 1PG.

Bailiffs and bills

From Mr V. R. Drinkall

Sir, If Michael Meacher had ever attempted to secure money using a county court bailiff for enforcement I am sure he would not have concluded that it is wrong for water companies to continue to disconnect for non-payment of bills (report, November 19).

As a practising solicitor I can think of no instance in the last five years when a bailiff alone has managed to recover either money or goods. I have even sent bailiffs to corner shops and received the response: "Insufficient goods to cover cost of removal." Most of these could not be resold.

University research that I have seen shows that after county court proceedings in the small claims courts only a minority of defendants paid up on time. After six months many had still not paid. If the water industry is to rely on bailiffs it may as well write off those debts now.

Yours sincerely,
V. R. DRINKALL,
Ratcliffe & Bibby (solicitors),
69-71 Church Street,
Lancaster LA1 1ET.
November 20.

Publishing poetry

From Mr Anselm Kuhn

Sir, Protests at the decision of the Oxford University Press to discontinue its poetry list (letters, November 25) are nothing more than another stanza in a long tradition.

Composers, painters, unpublished writers have ever advanced arguments, ranging from moral duty through to the suggestion that their works might indeed bring profit to the impresario, gallery owner or publisher with the courage to back them. And, in a few cases, history has proved them right.

Professor Fenton might rail (article, November 25), but the fact is that — typesetting and printing costs apart — a slim volume costs as much to produce as a fat one. The management and promotional overheads are identical.

It seems that we either accept the view that OUP management have got it all wrong, or it is simply that poets expect their work to be published on a subsidised basis. I doubt that a respected and successful publisher such as OUP will be easily moved by either argument.

At least they seem to have spared their poets the ultimate insult a publisher can offer — requiring the authors to pay the publishers.

What about the Internet?

Yours faithfully
ANSELM T. KUHN
(Director),
Finishing Publications Ltd,
PO Box 70, Stevenage,
Hertfordshire SG1 4DF.
finpubs@compuserve.com
November 25.

From Mr Alan Brownjohn

Sir, Does the finance department of the OUP read the newspapers, or take in the broadcasting media? That such a decision should be made just after the successful celebration of a third National Poetry Day, and amidst the wide and lively interest in poets and poetry in relation to the laureateship, is almost impossible to credit.

OUP cites low sales figures for poetry. Other companies in the recent past have adopted a bottom-line tactic, when poetry is understandably less profitable than, say, cookery or gardening, of giving only minimal time, money and energy to promoting poets. Not surprisingly, sales decline, and encourage the accountants' view that poetry can't be worth promoting.

The success of creative writing classes and courses of the kind so generously furthered by our late and illustrious Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes, suggests that there may be a greater number of people seeking and learning to write verse than at any previous time. This is also the Year of Reading. Should not all this suggest challenge and opportunity to publishers instead of cutbacks?

But perhaps this latest reverse, happening when it does, can be turned to advantage. The next Poet Laureate could be chosen, from among persons of suitable talent, on the basis that poets and poetry need someone to speak out for them and act as a defender of the art.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BROWNJOHN
(Chairman, The Poetry Society, 1982-88),
2 Belsize Park, NW3 4ET.
November 22.

New depths

From Mr Denys Franzini

Sir, Mrs Alexandra Campbell (letter, November 24) adds organisations that "get into bed with" each other to the list of irritatingly silly expressions.

If two (or more) organisations "get into bed together" following a "sexy" deal and have a relationship "to die for" (letter, November 19,) might they then be "touching base" with each other?

Yours faithfully,
DENYS FRANZINI,
10 Courtfield Mews, SW5 0NH.
November 24.

From Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, All these ridiculous modern phrases should be put on the back burner.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Milnthorpe,
Winchester SO22 4NF.
November 24.

Seasonal drop?

From Mr John Rook

Sir, I understand that Marks & Spencer is at present experiencing difficulties (reports, November 19 and 26).

Could this be regarded as condign retribution for yet again starting the Christmas selling campaign in early November, and yet again obstinately refusing to insert an apostrophe in "Seasons Greetings"?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ROOK,
42 Peartree Road,
Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3DE.
November 26.

Plum wrong

From Mr D. Lessman

Sir, Apologies are due from the P. G. Wodehouse Society for their denial that Bertie Wooster ever wore a monocle (Diary, November 24).

Not "in the text" eh? Then why did Bertie wear a monocle when his portrait was painted by Gwladys Pendlebury in *The Spot of Art*? The painting wound up as an advertising poster for Slingsby's Superb Soups in London and the Bouillon Supreme in Paris, so clearly full disclosure was made to the public back in the 1930s.

Yours etc,
D. LESSMAN,
67 Hamilton Terrace, NW8 9QX.
November 25.

From Mr Ben Stroude

Sir, Bertie Wooster probably wore a monocle for the duration of one (sadly, unwritten) short story before Jeeves very properly put a stop to it.

But he was never, ever, known as Plum. This was the nickname of Wodehouse himself:

In 1881 I was christened Pelham Grenville — and not a thing to show for it except a small silver mug. I remember protesting at the time vigorously, but it did no good, the clergyman stuck to his point (*Performing Flea*, 1953).

Yours sincerely,
BEN STROUDE,
14 China Farm Lane, West Kirby,
Wirral, Merseyside L48 9XW.
bcstroude@aol.com
November 25.

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Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Play on words

From Professor Paul J. Korshin

Sir, I was delighted to read (article, "Expletives not deleted", November 21) that we can trace certain offensive usage to that clever rascal Shakespeare, who "had Hamlet slyly referring to 'country matters'".

May I propose a bold emendation? Why not try assigning these words to Ophelia (as some editions already do), just to see how they play?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. KORSHIN
(Professor of English,
University of Pennsylvania),
1005 Greenwood Avenue,
Wyncote, Pennsylvania 19095.
November 25.

Essential expletive

From Mr R. J. White

Sir, I disagree with your leading article that the word "bloody" was ill-chosen by the Prince of Wales ("Blankety blank", November 21; see also report and photograph, early editions, November 19).

Frankie Howerd, who used very little bad language, used to say that the expletive is sometimes essential to turn an ordinary line into a funny one. He told a joke about an hotel guest who was given a trumpet to play if he wanted to know the time in the night. When he did so another guest shouted: "Who's that playing the trumpet at three o'clock in the bloody morning?"

Yours faithfully,
R. J. WHITE,
1 Chemin de la Rive Bergère,
06480 La Colle sur Loup, France.
November 23.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 26: The Duke of Edinburgh, *Master of Trinity House*, today inspected North Foreland Lighthouse, marking the completion of the Corporation's automation programme of manned Trinity House Lighthouses after 400 years, and was received by Her Majesty's *Lord-Lieutenant of Kent* (the Lord Kingsdown KG).

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

By command of Her Majesty, Vice Admiral *Sir James Weatherall* (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency U Win Aung at 19A Charles Street, *Berkeley Square, Mayfair*, London, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Union of Myanmar (formerly Burma) to the Court of St. James's.

The Lord Geraint (Extra Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Departure of The President *of the Republic of Kenya* and bade farewell to His Excellency on behalf of The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 26: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning visited the new Offices of the Royal Warrant Holders Association, 1 *Buckingham Place, SW1, and was* received by Mr. Christopher Rowe (President).

Mrs. Michael Gordon Lennox and *Sir Alastair Aird* were *in* attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 26: The Prince of Wales, Vice President of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, this afternoon *received Mr. Martin Drury* (Director General).

His Royal Highness, President, this afternoon visited the Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, South Kensington, London.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 26: The Duke of York this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Fiji.

Commander Charlotte Manley RN was in attendance.

November 26: The Princess Royal, President, this morning presented Awards at the British Horse *Society's Awards Lunch and this* afternoon attended the Council Meeting at Saddlers' Hall, Gutter Lane, City of London.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, afterwards visited Guide Clothing, Commercial *Road, Whitechapel*, East London.

The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London, this evening attended a Dinner in the Great Hall, King's College London, Strand, in celebration of the new King's College, following mergers *with the Institute of* Psychiatry and the United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 26: The Duke of Gloucester, Honorary Freeman *and Liveryman*, the Worshipful Company of Masons, this morning presented the Natural Stone Awards at Mercers' Hall, Ironmonger Lane, City of London.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner and presented the International Building Press Journalism Awards at the Four Seasons Hotel, Hamilton Place, Mayfair, London.

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon opened the Language Building at the Royal Grammar School, Amersham Road, High *Wycombe, and was received by* Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (Sir Nigel Mobbs).

Her *Royal* Highness *later* opened the Young Men's Christian Association Foyer Centre in Crest Road, High Wycombe.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 26: The Duke of Kent today visited Sheffield and was *received by Her Majesty's* Lord-Lieutenant of South Yorkshire (the Earl of Scarbrough).

His Royal Highness this morning visited Dinnington Comprehensive School, Doe Quarry Lane, Dinnington.

The Duke of Kent afterwards visited the Valley Health Suite, Johnson Street, Stocksbridge.

His Royal Highness this after*noon* visited Sheffield Forgemasters (Engineering) Limited, Brightside Lane.

The Duke of Kent later visited *South Yorkshire Fire Service* Training Centre, Woodhouse.

His Royal Highness finally visited Sanderson Electronics, Parkway House, Parkway Avenue.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
November 26: Princess Alexandra *this afternoon attended a Recep*tion at St James's Palace to mark the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of Her Royal Highness's Patronage of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, patron, Basic Skills Agency, will attend their Primary Quality Mark reception at Commonwealth House, New Oxford Street, London, WC1, at 11.15; and will open the Wiltshire Cardiac Centre at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Okus Road, Swindon, at 2.25.

The Duke of Kent, as Colonel, will attend the 50th annual dinner of the Scots Guards Warrant Officers and Sergeants (*Past and Present*) Association, the New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, at 7.30.

RICS Awards

The President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Mr Richard Lay, was the host at the annual RICS Awards presentation ceremony held on Monday at the Institution's Parliament Square, London, headquarters. Mr John Gummer, MP, was guest of honour and delivered the 1998 RICS Awards Lecture, Driving Environmental Change — the Role of the Professions.

Royal College of Music

The Prince of Wales, President of the Royal College of Music, yesterday conferred the following awards at the College:
President Emerita Scholar: Miranda Keys; Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Rosebowl, Sarah Fox; Lies Askonas Prize, Alison Roddy; Chappell Gold Medal for pianoforte, Jerome Sadler; Tagore Gold Medals, Joanne Lunn and Jerome Sadler; Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music: Sir David Willcocks; Fellowships: Daphne Boden, Jane Manning and Itzhak Rashkovsky; Honorary membership of the college: Carol Barratt, Kevin Hathway, Julian Hodgson, Susan Sturrock, Larry Westland and Jill White.

Lectures

Royal Signals Institution
Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, delivered the annual Royal Signals Institution lecture last night at the Institute of Directors.

Hardwicke Building Lecture
Mrs Justice Arden delivered the 8th Hardwicke Building Lecture on Tuesday in the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn. Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, was in the chair. The theme of the lecture "Criminal Law at the Crossroads: the impact of human rights from the Law Commission's perspective and the need for a criminal code" attracted 100 invited guests from the judiciary and the legal profession.

Calls to the Bar

Lincoln's Inn

S Dindyal, London N7; C J Foster, Whitstable, Kent; I A Hoque, London SW16; S P Dunn, London SW10; M A Tan, Singapore; Y Baah, London E11; M S Mollah, Calcutta; *J Lee Cheng Lye, Penang*, Malaysia; R Gupta, Singapore; Ng Su Chin, Singapore; E L Knowles, Nassau, Bahamas; Y Z Said, Islamabad, Pakistan; T L Driscoll, *Towcester; S G Monekosso, London NW6*; A Krishnasamy, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia; D McDonald, London NW6; Khoo Hong Aun, Croydon; R E Hearsey, Brownhills, W Mid; C Nazar, Singapore; S Siraj, Dhaka, Bangladesh; N J Leale, Esher; T Alizai, Karachi, Pakistan; K Malc, Lutterworth, Leics; R Supramaniam, Singapore; M Zakir, London SW19; N M Bandali, Mombasa, *Kenya; L J Lourdes, Hayes, Middx*; A L Wille, London N1; J B Miah, London E1; K F Ali, London NW1; S Tan Mei Yee, Selangor, Malaysia; Tan Su Shong Shawn, Singapore; *V K Sumputh, Curepipe*, Mauritius; C Hancock, Leeds; B J Layne, London N16; R R Matharoo, London E10; G Lee Swee Seng, Selangor, Malaysia; Chew Eng Cheng, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia; D I Adamson, Watford; Ong Hean Jin, Singapore; J Wako, Nairobi, Kenya; S Ramanathan, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia; S Cohmday, Rose Hill, Mauritius; V Vahon, London SE23.

K H D'Aguilar, London E17; R Neenchand, Triolet, Mauritius; B J Harwood, Bedford; M L Hirst, Ilkley, W Yorks; S R Fodge, London NW8; M J Rimer, Beckenham, Kent; F Merchant, London W2; L J Bland, Grimsby; J M R Chien, Scarborough; M H Ali, *Dhaka*, Bangladesh; M A Jenkins, London E10; R Ramchandra, Singapore; R J Phelps, Rugby; N Bisarya, Skelmersdale, Lancs; I W Hutton, Sheffield; S R S De Saram, Colombo, Sri Lanka; A Koy Kwan Loong, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; M Cassell, London N10; F Kuok Lin Tan, Malacca, Malaysia; N Mohammed Razaq, London NW10; S A Edwards, Thornton Hough, Wirral; F A Rashid, Slough; R E Hawkins, Llandaf, Cardiff; P Sewpal, Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius; P A Gibson, Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; G P Wright, Bristol; S D *Rawat, London E17; R E Redhead, Kendal*; M J Lindemann, Croydon; Su Li S Foon, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia; S N Adam, Selangor, Malaysia; E G Brennan, Spittle, Wirral; P A Turner, Brighton; S L Worrall, Ramsbury, Wilts.

Y Ai Wah Gan, Malacca, Malaysia; M Beesley, Salford; J M Evans, Marianglas, Ynys Mon; T Hassan, London W9; D A Cheetham, Sheffield; A De Winter, Shipley, W Yorks; R Rethinasamy, Butterworth, Penang, Malaysia; N D Esparon, London SE16; K E Titchmarsh, Bidston, Wirral; D M Ager, London SW2; M J Harakis, London N2; P J Lowrie, Belfast; L Pisias, Limassol, Cyprus; H J Nanayakkara, Dehiwala, Sri Lanka; L C Bolton, Beverley, E Yorks; C J Bulleyment, Dawlish, Devon; D J Wise, Fleet, Hants; C N Westbrook, Bristol; A *Kaza, Harrogate, North Yorkshire*; A A Reid, Montego Bay, Jamaica; G M McNeely, London N7; T K Phull, Greenford, Middx; G L Brickman, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middx; J H Mellows, Nottingham; E A L Culverhouse, Bristol; A K Randhawa, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia; L Varley, Gainford, nr Darlington; C Truscott, London SW12; P N Garvin, Newton Hyde, Ches; R J Hinton, East Bergholt, Essex; R T R Bethell, Nassau, Bahamas; A C B L Payton, London NW2; A M Meacher, Upminster; K S Daines, Duffield, Derbys; H F Joseph, London E7; T H Dunn, Oxon Hoath, nr Tonbridge, Kent; *A Sajid, Birmingham*; A Chong Siew Lin, Penang, Malaysia; S Raina, Johor Baru, Malaysia; V Navarasinam, Penang, Malaysia; N C Rampersad, Trinidad, W Indies; M S Omar, Dhaka, Bangladesh; C Dowarris, London NW10; D R Phelan, Dublin, an Irish barrister; P L Landolt, London E1, a former solicitor; D A Osakwe, London N19, a former solicitor; S R Langton, Tamworth, Staffs, a former solicitor; E J M Chamberlain, London N5, a former solicitor; Professor A McGee, Leeds, professor of law; P M G McKeown, Bangor, Co Down, a barrister of the Inn of Court of N Ireland.

Inner Temple

H G J King, London SW4; R S Young, Ashington, Northumberland; R Jacobson, Wembley, Middx; K M McMahon, Malden, Essex; B Karia, Heathfield, Chislehurst; G S Reid, London W5; E D C Risso-Gill, London W2; P Moore, London N22; A W Phillips, Sheldon, Birmingham; K J Naidu, Singapore; J C Collis, Purley, Surrey; P M Hennity, Erdington, Birmingham; A C *Edwards, Truro, Cornwall*; J D Carr, Bournemouth; J Griffin, Amersham, Bucks; E J B Griffin, London SW18; D P Browitt, Guisborough, Cleveland; G J Stannard, Bristol; L J P Van Der Meij, London N1; E Hudson, Swanley, Kent; *M D Kuznicki*, London N4; R W M Lowe, Fishponds, Bristol; S Scott, London E1; H Y L Addison, London EC1; S B Dickerson, Moseley, Birmingham; A E Timpson, London SW3; D D Stokes, Ilford; C J Baksi, Staines; L N Wilder, London NW3; J C Holleyhead, London W8; T Gordon, Manchester; A J G Grainger, London SE16; G P Sector, Camberley; H L Gamble, Burton on Trent.

E A J Hawkins, W Beadbourne, Kent; B Johnson, London SE17; M J Taylor, Allington, Grantham; M N Stevens, Goring by Sea, W Sussex; F R Jackson, London EC1; *T L Macfarlane*, Bath; C L Matthews, Colchester; E Semega-Janneh, Brighton; S T Hewitt, London N8; J W Onalo, London NW11; F Arshad, Handsworth; J Rooney, Scotstown, C Monaghan, Ireland; I D *Howard, Nottingham; R Shrieves-Yeates*, Saltdean, E Sussex; N A Cooper, Abbeydale, Gloucs; O E Jones, Oxford; S J Kohl, Barnet, Herts; E O Brabbins, Macclesfield; T L Gaze, Horsham; M G Jordan, Greenford, *Middx; G F Malone, London W11*; K Vincent, Alcester, Warks; W A L Thomas, London NW3; D D Glinton, Nassau, Bahamas; M D Florendine, Gorad Valley, Anglesey; *J G Challinor*, Bromsgrove; J R Ooganah, Brentwood, Essex; C Rapley, Old Catton, Norwich; S J White, Pensworth, W Sussex; P J Costello, London NW6; S C Knight, London E3; M M B Lesson, Shrewsbury; P S Sefton, member of the Bar of N Ireland, Templepatrick, N Ireland; C McC Colgart, a former solicitor, London SW11; N Muir, a former solicitor, London SW11; B A Jones, a former solicitor: Old Basing, Hants.

In absentia
E Koudounari, Limassol, Cyprus.

Middle Temple

W J T Walsh, London SE5; A D M De Chassiron, London WC1; C D Lewis, London SE1; R G Armstrong, Hong Kong; C H Hulse, Holton, Oxon; J Roberts, Mold, Flint; Spring Tan, *Singapore; P C Johnston*, Solihull; N Jeganathan, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia; D Chung, Tinshui Wai, Hong Kong; D B Squires, London E1; H A Best, *Belfast; K Ganchi*, Blackburn; M H Sithawalla, Singapore; R Subramaniam, Kedah, Malaysia; P N Barrett, Hong Kong; C W McP Dearie, Sevenoaks; V J Lockley, *London SW16*; R E McMillan, London W14; Chong Ting Lee, Hong Kong; Ping Klong Ting, Sarawak, *Malaysia*; V M Atkins, Garstang, Lancs; S Arashan, Singapore; J P Rainbird, London EC1; E J H Peters, Sittingbourne; A K Ramshaw, Baldock, Herts; E M Hodgetts, Sutton Coldfield; S McKeown, London, SW5; R A Herring, Wakefield; J McCracken, Ballantrae, Ayr; W Njonjo, *Nairobi, Kenya; D I Sen, London* W11; E A M Duhs, London W12; L M Allen, Long Itchington, Warks; M Jaffer, Cambridge; E L Wilmot, Nassau, Bahamas; M Patel, Loughborough; G Lee, Saltdean, East Sussex; K L Whiteley, Warrington; A A Dajani, London SW3.

D R L Ramble, London NW11; S R Sands, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk; Thiam Huat Ho, Singapore; Yiu Ming Cheuk, Kowloon; T C Styles, Par, Cornwall; E M R Muir, Swansea; C J Addy, Marple, Ches; D J Morgan, Winchester; M Richer, Dagen*ham*; Yuet Lai Ng, Ipoh, Perak, W Malaysia; A N McMahon, Gosport; A R Last, London W2; W A M C Cooper, Sheffield; Sunyoon Hah, London SW15; H F Thompstone, Bishops Stortford; K E Grange, London N22; B Hawkin, London *E6*; X Stavrou, London SE5; Yue Shing Tam, Hong Kong; Ser Chiang Ng, Singapore; B L Jones, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan; P Chi Yeung Kwok, Kowloon; M Z H Hashim, London N18; H K Bjornson-Pennell, London N10; A N Turner, Gibraltar; T J Huggins, Little Cornard, Suffolk; T K Gustafson, Oxford.

Min Yung G Fong, Singapore; M E *Chowdhury, London E6*; C L Rawnsley, Rawdon, Leeds; R M Wilson, Eastcote, Middx; D F Trenado, Gibraltar; S J Keen, London W1; D R Callow, London N1; T A Scott, London EC1; P W Shea, Stoke-on-Trent; *D J Kwan Tat, Quatre Bornes*, Mauritius; A J Dearing, Farnham Common, Bucks; R L Vibert, St Helier, Jersey; A J Sandford, Ross-on-Wye; F A Karume, London W2; C D O'Shea, Brighton; G M Chambers, London SE15; L-P A-M M Moll, Edinburgh; S-A Davis, Cardiff; C A Fowler, Plymouth; C R H Church, Richmond, Surrey; E C Stewart, London W4; C A L Solomon London, N14; *S D Rahul, Wolverhampton; J Horne*, London SW15; C F Chinnock, Llanelli; L Bennett, Rotherham; M T E Stephens, London SW15; A S Chaudhry, Lower Earley, Reading; K B O'Shea, Killarney; T *Saiako-Oloruntemi*, London N7; N M Schymyck, Beckenham; K A Mills, Ynyswen, Treorchy; S M Rundle, West Camel, Yeovil; E T Teo, Singapore; M S James, Bearsted, Kent; S N Goh, Gibraltar; D Z Blum, London NW1; D K Walker, Huddersfield; D W Allison, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich; M J Palmer, Mitcham; C D Chalkley, London NW6; R L Maharaj, London E15; R N Mallalieu, Groton, Oldham; J L G Davies, Selside, *Horton in* Ribblesdale, N Yorks; B C D Showell, Birmingham; L R Frew, London SW18; J V Wardale, London E1; K McKee, Bristol; C J McCafferty, *London SW5; A Gardner*, Hazel Grove, Stockport; A D Smith, London W7; S R W Griffith, Bridgend, M Glamorgan; N Mahmood, Peterborough; A Bennett, London *SW16; J C Cleris*, North Harrow, Middx; J L McDonald, London NW10; P L Brown, Nassau, Bahamas; A G Daniel, Dennery, St Lucia; M McManus, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan; A Wyvill, Birmingham; K S P McCavish, London SE3, a former solicitor; Professor *D Attard*, St Andrews, Malta; M S Glaser, London NW1, a former solicitor.

Gray's Inn

J Eastham, Inglewhite, Lancs; M Beeharry, London SW17; S A Fremiot, Mahé, Seychelles; T A Constantis, Larnaca, Cyprus; V T Gordon, Hamilton, Bermuda; E Erotocritou, Limassol, Cyprus; A W Troup, London N1; A P B Fowler, Lower Heswall, Wirral; N J Sheldon, London SE1; J W Nichorster, Hong Kong; M D Stradling, London SW9; K S Toogood, London SE3; M A Aziz, London E1; G N R Davies, Putney, London; J D Pretsell, London N4; M R Cobbe, Dinas Powys; C M Sjolin, London SW18; S A Mihangel, Yr Wyddgrug; Sir Y *Fflint; G M Ridgeway*, Alsager, Ches; S P Wood, Northampton; D I Lewis, Chesterfield; S J Lamb, Isleworth; S C Agnew, Portmarnock, Co Dublin; M P Bardell, London E1.

G J Mooney, Sutton Valence; D H Davies, Saron, Rhydaman; M Typographou, Nicosia, Cyprus; M J Gleeson, Rhiwbina, Cardiff; B T Douglas-Jones, *Swansea; K Moradifar*, a former solicitor, Bath; R M Jones, Gellifaul, nr Blackwood, Gwent; R Shenstone-Davies, Swansea; L John, Llansamlet, Swansea; R Scamardella, Hailsham, E Sussex; C Choudhury, Kings Langley; S R L Bird, West Acton, London; N P T Clive, Beverley, E Yorks; L J Hall, Totton, Southampton; S H Jenkins, Swansea; R Singh, Penang, Malaysia; C Charalambous, Nicosia, Cyprus; D K Smith, Blackheath, London; M T Gent, Roundhay, Leeds; J A Donnelly, London N10; D J Went, Putney; S J Gregory, Cathays, Cardiff; S Kurdi, London W5; J M Kavanagh, Farnham; G L Gimson, *London N4*; R C Hearnden, Leigh, Worcester; C J H Blockley, Bristol; R J Hussain, Rochdale; M A Knight, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire; K Jones, Caersws, Powys; R Langan, Gateshead; J T Bailey, Bridport; K E Hayes, Guisborough, Cleveland; F L McEntegart, London NW6; T J Kelly, Stevenage; D R M Thomas, London SW1; T T Adegbola, Woking, Surrey; M C Barrow, Arima, Trinidad, West Indies; A L Booth, Bolton; R Bernstein, London N2; M D Hardie, London NW1; P A Lownds, London NW5; J R Forbes, Nassau, Bahamas; D S Desker, London E11; Li Yian Soo, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Dinners

King's College London
The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, was guest of honour at a dinner held last night at King's College London to celebrate the mergers between King's College London, the United Medical and Dental Schools of *Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals* (UMDS) and the Institute of Psychiatry. A service to celebrate the mergers was held in Southwark Cathedral on Wednesday, November 25. The Archbishop of Canterbury, College Visitor, gave an address.

European-Atlantic Group
The Ambassador of the Russian Federation was the guest of honour and speaker at a European-Atlantic Group dinner-discussion held *last night at the St James's Court* Hotel after a meeting held at the House of Commons sponsored by Mr Richard Ottaway, MP. Lord Dahrendorf, FBA, president of the group, was in the chair. Among others present were:
Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Marchioness of Donegall, the Earl and Countess of Munster, Lady Clinton Davis, *Lady Dahrendorf, Lord Howell of Guildford*, Lord Hylton, Jacqueline Lady Kenilworth, Jacqueline Lady Killearn, Baroness Park of Monmouth, Lord and Lady Renwick, the Hon Sir Peter and Lady Ramsbotham, Sir Ronald and Lady Arculus, Lady Burton, Lady Ross, Lady Dunnett, Lady Newsam, Sir Peter Marshall, Princess Helena Gagarin-Moutafian and representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Caledonian Club
Viscount Slim was the guest of honour at the annual St Andrew's Day dinner held last night at the Caledonian Club. *Lord Ramsay*, president, was in the chair. The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was present.

Defence and Security Forum
*Mr Ronnie Flannagan, Chief Con*stable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Defence and Security Forum held last night at the Garrick Club. Lady Olga Maitland, president, was in the chair. *Lord Mayhew of Twysden, vice*-president, and Colonel Philip Howes, chairman, also spoke.

Glaziers' Company
Mr George Cracknell, Master of the Glaziers' Company, assisted by Mr Peter Batchelor and Mr Richard Stone, wardens, presented the Glaziers Award for Community Service to Cadet Sergeant-Major C. Mensah, 9 Regiment *RLC* Detachment of the South East London ACF at the installation dinner of the company held last night at Glaziers' Hall. Professor Sir Brian Pearse, Mr Peter London and Mr Frank Stansil also spoke. Among others present were:
The Mayor of Southwark, the Dean of York, the Dean of Norwich, Father Leo Chamberlain OSB, the Master of the Scientific Instrument Makers' Company, the Master of the Launderers' Company and Mr Alderman John Hughesdon.

Deloitte and Touche Consulting Group
Sir Robert Walmsley, Chief of Defence Procurement, was the guest of honour at the annual Deloitte and Touche Defence dinner held at the Royal United Services Institute on November 25. Mr Martin Scicluna, Senior Partner, was in the chair. Thirty senior members of the Defence and Defence Industry Communities attended.

Institute of Actuaries

The following candidates have completed the examinations requirements for the qualification of Fellowship of the Institute of Actuaries.

Angell, Mrs K A, Horsham; Aries, S M, Horsham; Atherton, *J E*, London; Atkinson, Ms N J, Peterborough; Austin, Ms N C M, London; Bailey, G, London; Bangar, A K, London; Barraclough, D *M, Bournemouth*; Bissett, B K, Hertford; Blackmore, Miss S, London; Bonser, P C, London; Broughton, J, London; Brown, W D, London; Buckland, A N, Croydon; Bulcraig, I A, Croydon; Burden, R J, London; Burke, Ms R E, Dublin; Burns, K W, Dublin; Burr, S D, London; Caterson, D W, Reading; Clark, A R, Bournemouth; Clarke, D E, Dublin; Clay, D K, London; Codd, A F, Cape Town; Collins, M R, London; Collinson, M P, Birmingham; Cornall, Miss S E, Horsham; Coulson, T S, Peterborough; *Davis, W J, Cape Town*; Day, R G, Horsham; Devchand, S, Johannesburg; Doyle, Mrs D L, Bournemouth; Elliott, S J, Bristol; Fannin, Miss C M, Croydon; Faulkner, J S, London; Ferguson, J, Cape Town; Firbank, A J, Leeds; Fothergill, J, Sydney; Gardiner, D J, Croydon; Garnsworthy, C E, London; Gaughan, Ms O N, Dublin; Gent, M J, Bristol; Gilbert, C, Oxford; Gildenhuys, A, Cape Town; Greenwell, D M, London; Gregan, J T, Dublin; Griffiths, S J, Croydon; Hamilton, A J, Norwich; Hammacott, A P, Hertford; Handy, G S, Bristol; Hedges, M M, Bristol; Higginbottom, Miss A, Hertford; Hill, G, Croydon; Hill, Mrs L, Liverpool; Hugo, C F N, Cape Town; *Hulme-Vickerstaff*, M W, Leeds; Human, J J, Cape Town; Hunter, K J, Manchester; Huntington-Thresher, D J K, Croydon; Ingle, Ms R, London; Jackson, P T, London; Jackson, S G, Peterborough; Jain, V, London; Jelicic, D, Croydon; Jennings, Miss C R, Tunbridge Wells; Jennings, G N, Norwich; Johnston, R A, Liverpool; Katz, D A, Johannesburg; Kneller, S C, Leeds; Lane, M J, Horsham; Lavelle, D G, Dublin; Levy, D M, London; McCarthy, C, London; McCulloch, N R, London; McGaughey, K W, *London; McGrath, Miss M C A, Dublin*; McInerney, Miss C B, Dublin; Marcuson, T A G, London; Maynard, T J, Horsham; Miles, Miss K A, Horsham; Miller, J D, Hertford; Millns, R J, Croydon; Mitchell, J M W, Bournemouth; Moody, S J, London; Murashiki, H T, Johannesburg; Murtagh, G, Dublin; Nel, A, Johannesburg; Newbury, Miss K J, Croydon; Newland, N M, Croydon; O'Loughlin, S J, Dublin; Pentland, A J, London; Perks, J T, Tunbridge Wells; Popat, H, Hertford; Powis, Miss G M, Liverpool; Priestley, J E, Birmingham; Pryde, A S, London; Ramdayal, S, Cape Town; Reid, *Ms E*, Dublin; Rix, M I, Oxford; Roberts, D T, Dublin; Rogers, I M, London; Rossouw, Mrs N D, Cape Town; Russell, Miss C A, Croydon; Ryde, M, Birmingham; Sands, I M, London; Scarth, R H, Horsham; Schneider, D H, Gaborone; Schoonees, C R, Cape Town; Shah, R, London; Sharon, D, Tel Aviv; Shelley, P M, Bristol; Shirley, Miss J, *Hertford; Shochot, D A, Johannesburg*; Silcock, R H, Liverpool; Skinner, S D, Bournemouth; Smith, L, Cheltenham; Soldan, R N, London; Stamper, M, Croydon; Stead, Ms S L, Cape Town; Stephenson, M, Bristol; Stevens, S N, Croydon; Stipp, E J, Cape Town; Sweeting, P J, Cheltenham; Symeonidis, C G, Johannesburg; Tan, Miss S M K, *Kuala Lumpur; Tan*, S J Y, Cheltenham; Tavener, C, London; Tewari, R A D, Port of Spain; Trask, J A, London; van den Berg, G A, Cape Town; Varney, Miss A E, Croydon; Waite, J G T, Norwich; Walker, *M A*, Leeds; Wansbrough, *B R*, Wellington; Wilkinson, G J, Cape Town; Williamson, Miss J C, London; Wong, C H, Cheltenham; Wood, R A, Norwich; Woon, *Ms S H*, Wellington; Wright, Mrs S J, Hertford.

Faculty of Actuaries

The following candidates have completed the examinations requirements for the qualification of Fellowship of the Faculty of Actuar*ies*.

Aitchison, M I, Norwich; Baird, R W, Glasgow; Chinaka, C, Cape Town; Davison, A J, Johannesburg; Doherty, D, Edinburgh; Gray, *D*, Glasgow; Gray, *S M*, Edinburgh; Hough, I F, Oxford; McGill-Brown, Mrs H M, Edinburgh; Maciver, Miss M M, Glasgow; Marshall, I, Edinburgh; Murray, P, Edinburgh; Nichols, C C I H, Edinburgh; Pearson, K W G, Glasgow; Priestley R N, Edinburgh; Ross, Miss M I, Edinburgh; Shum, M C, Edinburgh; Thores, C, Edinburgh; Thorn, Mrs C J, Edinburgh; Tognon, Miss G, Johannesburg; Vassou, V, London; Young, J S, Edinburgh

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W. Cameron and Miss S. Harmood-Banner
The engagement is announced between Bill, only son of Mr A.G. Cameron and the late Mrs Cameron, of Marbella, Spain, and Susie, elder daughter of the late Sir George and Lady Harmood-Banner.

Mr S.G. Campbell and Miss J. Humphreys
The engagement is announced between Graham, son of *the late* Brigadier S.F. Campbell and of Mrs Campbell, of Camberley, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Humphreys, of Warnham, West Sussex.

Mr E.H. Davies and Miss A.M.C. Johnson
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr David Davies, of Westbere, Kent, and Mrs Anne Davies, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Arabella, elder daughter of the late Patrick Johnson and of Mrs Ivan Brumpt, of Paris, France.

Mr J.P. Dingley and Miss S. Tucker
The engagement is announced *between Jon*, elder son of Mr and Mrs Bryan Dingley, of Durban, South Africa, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Louis Tucker, of Coldharbour, Surrey.

Mr N.R. Dixon and Miss K.S.E. Hartley
The engagement is announced between Nick, youngest son of Mr and Mrs James Dixon, of Broadhempston, Devon, and Kate, daughter of the late Mr Christopher (Kit) Hartley and of Mrs Hartley, of Dedham, Essex.

Mr P.H. Greenslade and Miss J.A.B. Harford
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr Malcolm Greenslade and the late Mrs Greenslade, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Joanna, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Harford, of Chesterblade, Somerset.

Mr G.A.A. Horsman and Miss D.N.N. Anley
The engagement is announced between Adrian, eldest son of Mr Christopher Horsman and the late Mrs Horsman, of Fethard, Co Tipperary, and Bonnie, eldest daughter of the late Mr Nicholas Needham Anley and of Mrs Anley, of Mourne Park, Co Down.

Dr A.J. Power and Miss P.L. Katz
The engagement is announced between Albert John, only son of Dr Norman Power, of Athens, Greece, and the late Mrs Stella Power, *and Philippa Louise, only* daughter of Mrs Linda Katz, of Farnham, and Mr Charles Stephen Katz, of Teddington.

Mr R.M. Gladders and Miss S.C.A. Carey
The engagement is announced between Robert, *son of* Mr and Mrs Ian Gladders, of Frittenden, Kent, and Susanna, daughter of Mr and *Mrs* Mervyn Carey, of Benenden, Kent.

Mr E.D. Matheson and Miss K.J. van den Ende
The engagement is announced between Euan, son of Mr and Mrs A.S. Matheson, of Glasgow, Scotland, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.H. van den Ende, of Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Mr P.R. Matthews and Miss N.D. Selfe
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Greg Matthews, of Brentwood, Essex, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Selfe, of Romsey, Hampshire.

Mr R.W.G. Munro and Miss J.N. McCall
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of the late *Mr David Munro* and of Mrs Keith Birks, of Middlesbrough, Cleveland, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David McCall, of Hadlow, Kent.

Mr A.J.C. Parker and Miss K.E. Roscoe
The engagement is announced between Angus, elder son of Mr and Mrs Jamie Parker, of Killearn, Stirlingshire, and Katherine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Marshall Roscoe, of North Deighton, Yorkshire.

***Mr K.R.DeC. Sadler* and Miss M.J.V. Sheerman**
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Dr and Mrs Robin Sadler, of Wimborne, *Dorset, and Madlin*, daughter of Mr Barry Sheerman, MP, and Mrs Sheerman, of *Halifax*, West Yorkshire.

Mr A.G. Thistlethwayte and Miss L.H.A. Morison
The engagement is announced between Alexander, younger son of Mr and Mrs Seymour Thistlethwayte, of Sheet, Hampshire, and Lucy, only daughter of Sir Thomas Morison, of Little Cheverell, Wilt*shire, and the late Lady Goring*.

Mr N.A.L. Thomson and Dr N.C. Ryan
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Thomson, of Willaston, South Wirral, and *Natalie, elder daughter of Mr and* Mrs Raymond Ryan, of Sheet, Hampshire.

Dr G.E. Thwaites and Dr C.L. Ward
The engagement is announced between Guy, son of Dr and Mrs *Ian Thwaites, of Southwater*, West Sussex, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Ward, of Marple Bridge, Cheshire.

Birthdays today

Mr John Alderton, actor, 58; Dr John Ashworth, chairman, British Library, 60; Mr Rodney Bewes, actor, 61; *Lord Bridges, 71; the Earl* of Cottenham, 50; Mr Gavyn Davies, economist, 48; Mr Robert Dougall, broadcaster, 85; Air Marshal Sir Eric Dunn, 71; Mr James Evans, former chairman, International Thomson Organisation, 66; Lord Howard de Walden, 86; Miss Verity Lambert, film and television producer, 63; the Marquess of Lansdowne, 86; Sir John Maddox, *former Editor*, Nature, 73; Baroness Mallalieu, QC, 53; Lord Nickson, 69; Mrs Margaret Parry, former Headmistress, Heathfield School, Ascot, 79; Mr Alan Simpson, author and scriptwriter, 69; Mr Ernie Wise, comedian, 73.

Reception

HM Government
The Secretary of State for Defence and members of the Defence Council were the hosts at a reception held last night at Lancaster House, to meet the Commonwealth Defence and Service Advisers and Defence and Service Attachés in the UK.

Service dinners

Royal Dragoon Guards
Lieutenant-General *Sir* Anthony Mullens, Colonel of The Royal Dragoon Guards, presided at the annual regimental dinner held last night at the Cavalry and Guards *Club*.

RAMC Association
Members of the Royal Army *Medical Corps Association (City of* London) branch attended their annual dinner on November 21 at the Union Jack Club and marked the Corps' centenary year. Captain T.G. Payne presided. Mr Barry Theobald-Hicks (Deputy Chairman) and *Mr John Keen*, BEM, were among those present.

Luncheon

Rippon Group
Mr Menzies Campbell, QC, MP, and Dr Christopher Coker were the speakers at a luncheon of the Rippon Group held yesterday at 39—41 Parker Street, London WC2. Major-General A.J. Trythall presided.

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What empty things all idols are. Nothing they do amounts to anything, their *effigies* are so much wind, mere nothings. Isaiah 41 :29.

BIRTHS

ARMITAGE - On November 21st at The Portland Hospital to Katrina (née Weston) and Samuel Edwin, a baby daughter.

BUCHANAN - On November 25th 1998, to CB (née Boorman) and Angus, a daughter, Eloise, a sister *for Hannah*.

CLEGG - On November 12th to Amanda (née Lewis) and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Edward, a brother for Alexander.

COTTON - On November 20th 1998 to Juliet (née Edwards) and Philip, a son, Cosmo Alexander.

EL-HOMSI - On 8th November 1998 in Paris to Susan (*née Calder*) and Daniel, a son, Charles Khalil, a brother for Sophie and Lara.

LYONS - On November 22nd at The Portland Hospital to Marie (Polumbus) and Tom, a son, William McKenzie, a brother for Henry.

MARLAR - On November 5th to Patricia (née Higgins) and Jamie, a son, Christopher, a brother for George.

MURRAY - On November 25th at The Portland Hospital to Jackie (née Preston) and Grant, a son, Hamish, a brother for Olivia and Sophie.

TIDMARSH - On November 14th at home to Lorna (née Johnson) and Christopher, a son, Maxim Henry Lane, (Max), a brother for Ned.

WALKER - On 17th November to *David* and Emma (née Handfield-Jones) a daughter, Evie Louisa, a sister to Otney.

WITTER - On 23rd November 1998, to Catriona (née Hill) and James, a daughter, Georgina Emily Helen.

BIRTHS

WOMERSLEY - On November 12th to Biz (née Whitmore) and Peter, a son, William Searle, a brother for Ella.

MARRIAGES

WHITE:ERSKINE-MURRAY - On November 21st 1998 at St Michael and All Angels, Barnes, London, Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Stuart White of Oxford to Clare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs P Erskine-Murray of Bakewell, Derbyshire.

DEATHS

BARNES - Valerie, on November 25th 1998, died peacefully in her 92nd year. Widow of Morley, devoted mother of Simon and Tim, much loved by her seven grandchildren and all who knew her. Service of Thanksgiving, St Peter and St Paul Church, Seal, Sevenoaks Kent, Thursday December 3rd at 12.30pm, followed by private cremation. Flowers or if preferred, donations to Crohns in Childhood Research Association, c/o Welham Jones Funeral Directors, 156 London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1DJ. Tel: 01732 742400.

BICKNELL - Susan. Loved and respected violist died on St Cecilia's Day. Funeral, Monday 30th November at St. Matthew's Church, North Common Road, off Uxbridge Road, Ealing at 12 noon. No flowers but donations if desired to Walter Emery Fund for Cancer Research c/o 14, Whitehall Gardens, London W3 9RD. Enquiries to Christopher Wickenden Funeral Services 0181 579 7176.

DEATHS

BRUCE - Marcia on 24th November 1998 peacefully at Kenfield Hall, Petham, near Canterbury (previously of Winchelsea East Sussex). Beloved wife of the late Thomas Bruce and dearly loved mother of Margaret and Andrew. Funeral at All Saints Church, Icklesham near Hastings Wednesday 2nd December at 12 noon. Cut flowers or donations to The Stroke Association c/o Ellis Bros., 3 Ferry Road, Rye, E. Sussex Tel 01797-222394.

CHOLMELEY - Monty. Died *after a short illness* on Wednesday 25th November 1998. Funeral at 12.00 on Tuesday 1st December 1998 at St Mary and St Andrew's Church, Stoke Rochford. Flowers to David Holland Funeral Directors, London Road, Grantham.

CLARKE - Margot on 26th November in her 96th year, at St Georges Nursing Home and late of Chelsea. Dearly loved by all who knew her and life long friend and companion of the late Elizabeth Godfrey. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday 2nd December at 12.45.

DENNIS - Susan Lindy, (née Elgar) - Died at home on 24th November after a long and brave fight against cancer. Funeral service, to which all are welcome, at St Peter's, Stourton (Stourhead) on Thursday 3rd December at 2pm. Burial follows immediately at Stour Row, attended only by close family please. No flowers at Sue's request, but donations if desired to Cancer Care Dorset c/o *Bracher Bros, Funeral* Directors, Newbury Street, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4QL.

EARL - James Burton suddenly but peacefully on 20th November aged 83. Beloved husband (of the late Beryl), father, grandfather and brother. Funeral Service at St Austell Parish Church Friday 4th December at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the Jubilee Sailing Trust c/o Attree & Kent, 108 Church Road, Hove BN3 2EB. Tel: 01273 821985.

ESHAG - On 24th November 1998 peacefully Eprime, Emeritus Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford. Dear husband of Linda. Cremation will take place at Oxford Crematorium on Monday 30th November at 12.15. There will be a memorial gathering later.

GILL - Melia Edna, died on 25th November 1998. Beloved wife of the late Harry Gill, much loved mother of Ann, Bridget and John, and loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at St. Mary the Virgin, Buckland at 12 noon on Thursday, 3rd December. Family flowers only but donations if desired to High Peak Hospicecare, 137 Manchester Road, Chapel-in-le-Frith, High Peak, Derbyshire. SK23 9TN.

GODSON - Dorothy Frances (Doffy) peacefully at home on 25th November. Darling wife of Pat, adored mother of Mark, Antony and Richard, and so much loved by her grandchildren, family and many friends. Private Cremation. Thanksgiving service 2.30 pm Wednesday 2nd December at St. John's, Milford. *Family flowers* only please. Donations to Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, Farnham, Surrey.

HOLLAND - Stephanie (née Coltart) of Arundel, Sussex, wife of the late *Stapford Holland*, peacefully on Wednesday 25th November 1998. Funeral 3.00pm, Wednesday 2nd December at St. Nicholas, Arundel followed by private cremation.

KING - Joseph George. Sadly at St Helier Hospital, Sutton on Wednesday, 25th November. Dearly loved husband of Marjorie, *adored father of David* and Nigel and devoted grandfather. Service will take place at North East Surrey Crematorium on Thursday, 3rd December at 1pm. Donations in lieu of flowers if desired to Frank Dees Ward, St *Helier Hospital*.

MACKENZIE - On November 24th 1998, peacefully in the Heart of Kent Hospice, Maidstone, Ian David Mountain, aged 74. Beloved husband of Patricia, loving father to *Karen and Bruce*, and dearest Boppa to Tara and Paul. Funeral Service at St. John the Baptist, Harrietsham *on Thursday*, December 3rd at 11.00am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, payable to Heart of Kent Hospice c/o A W Court Funeral Directors, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Kent, ME17 2AP. Tel: 01622 850840.

MARR-MURRAY - On 19th November 1998, Richard Marr-Murray of Gussage All Saints, Dorset. Cremation has taken place.

MAULE - Jeremy Frank, on 25th November, aged 46. Son of Frank and the late Dorothy Maule, and stepson of Christine Maule. Fellow and Lecturer in English, Trinity College, Cambridge. Funeral 3rd December, 2.00pm in Trinity College Chapel. All welcome. Enquiries and donations in his memory *to the Fellows' Secretary*, Trinity College. Memorial service planned for the new year.

MAY - Guy Norman. Husband of Etsuko and father of Heather and *Judy, died Saturday 21st* November. Cremation, Bournemouth Crematorium, Tuesday 1st December at 11.30am and Thanksgiving Service at St. Andrews Sonning, on Saturday 5th December at 11.30am. Family flowers only and donations to 'Friends of Forest Holme' (Macmillan Trust) c/o George Scott, Funeral Directors, 13-15 Somerset Road, Bournemouth BH7 6JH. Tel:01202 395827.

MERRELLS - Joan (Sr. Mary Martha C.R.S.S.) who died peacefully on 26th November 1998, aged 82. R.I.P. Requiem Mass and Burial at New Hall, Chelmsford on Wednesday December 2nd at 11.30am. No flowers, please. Donations to 'ACROSS'.

MULCASTER - Genevieve, on Sunday November 22nd aged 77 years, a much loved mother who will be sadly missed by her *husband Dennis and her* children Carole and Robert. Funeral Service to be held on Friday 27th November at 12.30pm at St Anselms Church, Hatch End, Middlesex, followed by a burial service.

PARR - John Harington *(Harry) suddenly* at home on 25th November aged 74. Very dearly loved husband of Ruth and much loved father of Diana and Andrew. Private Cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's Church, Colyton on Wednesday 2nd December at 2.00 pm. Please no flowers or black ties. Donations, if desired, to Leukaemia Research c/o Overmass & Chapple, Seaton, Devon, EX12 2RB.

PRIESTLEY - Bruce Charles, aged 44, a Director of A-Plan Insurance, died on *November 23rd 1998*, at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford, after an illness borne with typical courage and fortitude. Cremation at Oxford Crematorium, on Tuesday December 1st, at 11.00am, to be followed by a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in January. Family flowers only please, donations if wished to Cancer Research, at Reeves and Pain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4TE.

PULLMAN - Désirée (née Pi Hardman) died peacefully at home on 25th November 1998, aged 81 years. Beloved wife of the late Cecil, much loved mother of Nigel and Cynthia, and dear Granny to Emily, Laura and Nicholas. Funeral Service at St Lawrence Church, Effingham on 3rd December at 11 am. No flowers please.

SEWELL - Phillada actress died November 24th. Her cousins and dear friends have many happy memories of her long life. Service 12 noon Thursday December 3rd Chilterns *Crematorium, Amersham*.

SHONE - Michael Gerald Terence peacefully on 26th *November aged 70. Much* loved husband of Anne and devoted father and grandfather. Funeral *private, no flowers but* donations if desired to Sir Michael Sobell House, Churchill Hospital, Oxford OX3 7LJ. Memorial Service to be announced later.

SLAYTER - Suddenly on November 24th 1998 Ethel Apsey (née Matheson) widow of Cdr R J Slayter, both formerly of Dunsfold, Surrey. Funeral at Warriston Crematorium Cloister Chapel, Edinburgh on Monday November 30th at 1.50 to which all friends are invited. Family flowers only please.

SLATER - Margot, peacefully without fear after a determined fight on 24th *November 1998. Loving* and much loved wife of Andrew, mother of Katharine (Kate) and Barnaby, grandmother to Jacob and brother-in-law of John. Funeral Service at St. Anne's Church, *Highgate*, West Hill, London N6 at 11.00am on Friday December 4th 1998. Family flowers. Donations, if desired, to Compston Ward, *The Royal Free* Hospital or to St Anne's Church, both, c/o Leverton & Sons, 149 Kentish Town Road, London, NW1 8PD.

SMYTH - Suddenly on 21st November, Thomas Elliott aged 88. *Loving and much* loved father of Tim and Penny, fond grandfather of Leo and Christy. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Holwell on Tuesday 8th December at 11.30 am. *Family flowers* only please. Funeral Directors: Austins, 96 Bancroft, Hitchin 01462 438422.

STEVENSON - John Champion died peacefully November 24th 1998. A *Service of Thanksgiving* is to be held on Tuesday 1st December 2.30 pm at St Peters Church, Sweptstone. *All welcome at Church.* Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Silas Marner Ward George *Eliot Hospital* may be sent to M. G. Evans Funeral Directors "Grendon House" Long Street, Atherstone CV9 1AX.

TOBIAS - Barbara on Monday *23rd November* 1998 after a long illness. Loved by all who knew her. Beloved by Les and Tamsin. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Barnes on Wednesday 2nd December at 12 noon followed by interment in East Sheen Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research.

VAN DER LUIT - John Sur, passed away peacefully at home on 23rd November *after a brave fight*. Never was a husband, Dad and Opa/Grandad more loved. Funeral at St. Joseph's Church, High Street, St Mary Cray on Thursday 3rd December at 12.15pm. Flowers to Home Farm.

VINCENT - Sibyl, on 23rd November, at The Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath, Sussex. Dearly loved wife of Hedley and mother and grandmother. There will be a Service *of* Thanksgiving at St Giles Church, Horsted Keynes at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 2nd December following *a quiet funeral* at Crawley Crematorium at 10.15 that morning. Family flowers only please. Donations for The Special *Forces* Benevolent *Fund* or the Princess Royal Hospital Trust Fund c/o Masters and Son, Lewes Road, Lindfield, RH16 2LE. (01444) 482107.

WALLIS - Peter Francis Daintree, peacefully at *home near Aylesbury* on 21st November. Dearly loved husband of Barbara and loving father to *Angela, Christine and* Robert. Family flowers only please. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care *c/o Heritage* and Sons, 167 Bicester Road, Aylesbury HP19 3BA.

WALSHAW - Robert *Frankland, founder* of the Bleasby herd, died at his home in Bleasby, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire on 24th November 1998. Beloved husband of Phyllis Mary. Service at Lincoln Crematorium on Thursday 3rd December at 3.10pm. Enquiries to J Marshall Funeral Directors, Market Rasen, 01673 843725.

WILLIAMS - Frank on November 24th 1998 at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth aged 85. Retired Halifax Building Society Manager, City of London Branch. Dearly loved husband of Doris, father of Angela and Jane, father-in-law of David and Martin, grandfather of Catherine, Robin, Matthew and Jonathan. Much missed by all of us.

IN *MEMORIAM* - PRIVATE

OKORODUDU - (née Middleton) Brenda 27.9.35 - 27.11.93. She was a fragile ship upon a cruel sea! Always loved by Rodi, Keto, Roli, and all the family, and friends.

SWAN - Peter. In proud and loving memory from his family.

BIRTHDAYS

MURRAY Happy Birthday to the brightest star in my sky, love always, Macey xxx

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OBITUARIES

CANON PETER BOULTON

Canon Peter Boulton, former Prolocutor of York Convocation and Chaplain to the Queen, died on November 17 aged 72. He was born on December 12, 1925.



Boulton: a strong Catholic faith and a deep love of the Church of England

Peter Boulton served with distinction in the Anglican parochial ministry for 37 years but also served the Church of England as a Proctor in Convocation for 33 years and as Prolocutor of the Convocation of York from 1980 to 1990. He retired from the General Synod at the Group of Sessions in November 1992 which also saw final approval being given to the women priests legislation. In saying farewell to Peter Boulton, the then Archbishop of York, *Dr John Habgood*, said of him: "He always displayed the Yorkshire love of straight talking, a sharp mind, a strong Catholic faith, a huge capacity for hard work, an unerring eye for something not quite right and a deep love of the Church of England."

Peter Henry Boulton was educated at Lady Lumley's Grammar School, Pickering, and went, on leaving school in 1942, into war service with the Royal Navy. After the war he read theology at St Chad's College, Durham, and trained for the priesthood at Ely Theological College. He was priested in 1951 and, after serving his title in Crewe and an assistant curacy in Mansfield, he became vicar of Clipstone, then a colliery village in Nottinghamshire, in 1955. Boulton's love of the Tractarian tradition and his social conscience were developed to the hilt in this appointment and many miners and their families discovered the care of the Church, both spiritual and material.

With a growing reputation as a devoted parish priest, Boulton was appointed to the important living of Worksop in 1967. During his twenty years in the parish, the work on the East End of the Priory Church was completed, a sheltered housing scheme and a youth club were set up, and he was founder-chairman of the Bassetlaw Council for Voluntary Service.

In addition to these social concerns Boulton took a keen interest in education, being a governor of state schools in Nottinghamshire and a member of the Notts County Education Committee. Stewardship was also one of his passions, a cause which he championed in many General Synod debates.

Within three years of his being elected to Convocation and the Church Assembly in 1959, his inquiring mind was recognised by his appointment to an Archbishops' Commission on Church and State under the chairmanship of Lord Howick, which reported in 1964. In subsequent Synod debates on Church-State questions Canon Boulton (he had been appointed an honorary canon of Southwell Minster in 1975) was recognised as an authority on the subject. When the Crown Appointments Commission for the nomination of clerics to diocesan bishoprics was formed, Boulton was elected as a member for ten years from 1982. Boulton also represented the Church of England on the Anglican Consultative Council from 1972 to 1980 and as an Anglican delegate to the World Council of Churches assemblies in 1975 and 1983.

He, in addition, found time for ecumenical matters at home, serving on the Committee on Anglican-Methodist Relations, 1967-72, acting as chairman of the Worksop Council of Churches, 1973-81, and serving on the ill-fated Council for Covenanting, 1978-82. Worried by the direction ecumenism was taking, he joined forces with Bishop Graham Leonard to edit *The Dolphin Papers*, which commented from the Anglo-Catholic standpoint on crucial issues before the General Synod in the period 1970 to 1980. As a result, he was recognised as a leader of the Catholic movement in the Church and his election to the Synod's Standing Committee followed in 1975. In 1980 the clergy of York Convocation elected him as their Prolocutor (spokesman).

When it was suggested that an overseas bishopric might be appropriate, he declined, believing that he could best serve the Church by contributing to the debates concerning the place of women in the ordained ministry. That proved to be the main issue in the Synod elections of 1990, in which the Catholic group lost much ground. When the officers of the Synod's Houses came to be elected at the first meeting of the new Synod, Boulton failed to retain the Prolocutorship, and the chairmanship of the House of Laity was also lost by the Catholics. Both offices were taken by Evangelicals who favoured women's ordination, and Boulton, who had been ordained in the heady days when Anglo-Catholicism still rode high, realised that it was now the Evangelical wing that was in the ascendant.

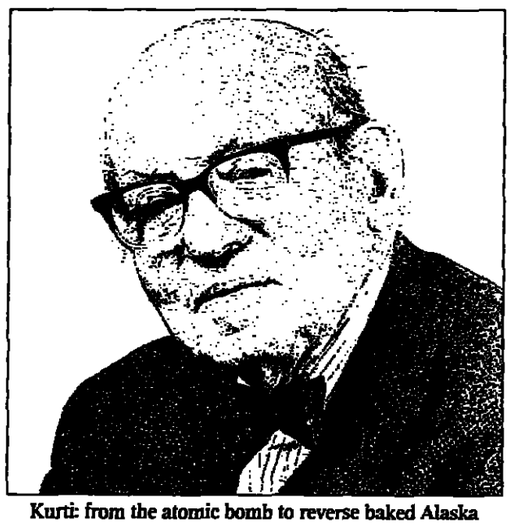
Yet he had never been a strident Anglo-Catholic and had shown himself capable of working with all sections of the Church. The then Bishop of Southwell, Michael Whinney (himself an Evangelical), recognised his abilities and appointed Boulton as Diocesan Director of Education and a canon residentiary of Southwell Minster in 1987. He proved to be a doughty fighter for church schools and also relished the discipline and order of daily cathedral worship.

His many and varied contributions to the work of the Church were recognised by his appointment as a Chaplain to the Queen in 1991. He retired from the full-time ministry in 1992 but remained very active, acquiring a master's degree in canon law from Cardiff Law School at the age of 71 after three years of study. He was also a member of the Council of the Ecclesiastical Law Society from 1991, and had taken pleasure in seeing the society grow to more than five hundred members. At residential conferences of the society he acted as chaplain. In championing the cause of canon law he did his best to persuade clergy that the law could be enabling rather than restrictive. At the time of his death he had embarked on a PhD course at Manchester Law School.

Peter Boulton was sustained in his ministry by his wife, having married Barbara Davies in 1955. She and the three sons of the marriage all survive him.

PROFESSOR NICHOLAS KURTI

Professor Nicholas Kurti, CBE, FRS, physicist, died in Oxford on November 24 aged 90. He was born in Hungary on May 14, 1908.



Kurti: from the atomic bomb to reverse baked Alaska

IF EVIDENCE were needed that indomitable cheerfulness and insatiable curiosity make for a long life, Nicholas Kurti supplied it. A distinguished physicist, he became almost as well known for his interest in applying scientific methods to cooking, and for his ready opinions on a range of subjects, often pithily expressed in letters to *The Times*.

He was born of a Jewish family in Budapest, and educated at the *Minta-Gymnasium*, which prepared him for university. But as a result of anti-Jewish laws, he was forced abroad to study, first to the Sorbonne for undergraduate training, and then to Berlin. There he worked for a doctorate under F. E. (later Sir Francis) Simon, a German physicist, born Franz Eugen Simon, who had won the Iron Cross in the trenches during the First World War.

The two men became close collaborators, working between 1931 and 1933 at the Technische Hochschule in Breslau, from which — both being Jewish — they prudently decamped upon the rise of Hitler. Thanks to the intervention of Frederick Lindemann (Lord Cherwell) they found refuge at the Clarendon Laboratory in Oxford.

Simon's speciality was low-temperature physics, and Kurti investigated ways of using magnetic methods for achieving very low temperatures. They made a perfect partnership, Kurti's deep knowledge and understanding of the magnetic phenomena combining with Simon's knowledge of thermodynamics.

At the outbreak of war, Kurti and Simon worked on the atomic bomb project and did not resume low-temperature physics until 1945. Kurti remained fascinated by the race between the Allies and the Germans to create the bomb, and in the early 1990s was among those who pressed the Government to release the Farm Hall transcripts, recordings of the conversations of six German physicists in internment in Britain when they heard the first news of the attack on Hiroshima.

Back at the Clarendon, Kurti and Simon devoted themselves to achieving, at the lowest possible temperatures, the alignment of the nuclear spins of atoms. They succeeded in 1951, and in collaboration with other nuclear physicists, used the method to study the direction in which radiation is emitted from the nucleus. Using very high magnetic fields, Kurti and Simon and their associates succeeded in 1956 in reaching a temperature of about a hundred thousandth of a degree above absolute zero.

Kurti was appointed Professor of Physics at Oxford in 1967, and became heavily involved in many scientific organisations. He described his hobby as "cooking, enjoying its results and judiciously applying physics to the noble art of cookery". Among the most striking results of this interest was his invention, with the aid of a microwave oven, of reverse baked Alaska, frozen on the outside but hot inside. He also showed that a soft-boiled egg free from the risk of salmonella could be achieved by immersion in water at 62 C for 20 minutes.

Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1956, he was appointed CBE in 1973. In 1988, at the age of 80, he offered to be part of a "flying squad" of elderly nuclear scientists willing to travel anywhere in the world to help to tackle a nuclear disaster. At that age, he argued, radiation that induced a cancer was unlikely to abbreviate his life.

He leaves his widow and two daughters.

JANE ANNAKIN

Jane Annakin, theatrical agent, died from cancer on November 11 aged 54. She was born on December 31, 1943.



Annakin: a skilful negotiator, she was a natural agent

JANE ANNAKIN's successful career as an agent for film, theatre and television was heavily influenced by a childhood spent on film sets, while her father, the director Ken Annakin, was at work on *The Longest Day*, *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines* and *Swiss Family Robinson*. This suffusion in film-making and the film business made a great impression on her, though not necessarily a positive one: at the age of eight she fell from a raft into the river on which her father was shooting *Three Men in a Boat*; she emerged soaking and resolute — film production would never be for her.

At the age of 18 she enrolled in the Central School of Speech and Drama, studying stage management. There she met Roger Williams, who was to remain at her side for the next 35 years. When she left Central she went to Ipswich Repertory Theatre as a stage manager, while Williams started work as a theatre director. It soon became obvious that their life together lay in London, and they moved into a flat in South Kensington in the mid-1960s. They were to live in that flat until their deaths.

As Williams's career blossomed and he branched out, earning a reputation as a director of opera as well as theatre, Annakin took a job at the William Morris Agency. One of the oldest dramatic agencies in the world, Wiliam Morris moved its European operations to London in 1965, headed by John Mather, and Annakin was employed as an assistant on the day the office was opened.

It soon became obvious that she was a natural agent, and she even declined a job offer from Walt Disney in favour of continuing with her agent's career. She represented actors on stage and television, among them Janet Suzman, Jenny Agutter, Leslie Ann Down and Patsy Kensit.

During her career as an agent, many of her clients became her friends. Jeremy Brett, best known for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes, was one of them and, when Annakin switched to representing writers and directors in 1972, he remained her only actor client until his death in 1995.

Among those whose careers she subsequently handled were Frederic Raphael, Jack Rosenthal, Charles Wood, Elijah Moshinsky, Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, and many others. She was greatly respected throughout the industry, and her obvious passion for and commitment to her work were recognised by all who had dealings with her. In 1987 she became joint chairman of the Personal Managers Association.

She first discovered she had cancer in 1994; in the same year, Williams also developed cancer, from which he died soon afterwards. Annakin's will to survive was largely fuelled by the prospect of their daughter, Alice, losing both her parents in her first term at Cambridge.

After Williams's death, she used her four years in remission to lead a full and busy life. After 32 years with William Morris, she moved to a smaller agency, London Management. Almost all her clients moved with her, and many new clients joined her as she settled into her new job. She showed that she was still able to represent talented young writers, directors and producers starting out in the industry, such as Rowan Joffe and Gareth Nearne. She will be remembered as a strong and skilful negotiator, and as a dependable friend.

She is survived by her daughter and grandson and by her parents.

ROLAND ALPHONSO

Roland Alphonso, saxophonist, died in Los Angeles on November 20 aged 67. He was born in Clarendon, Jamaica, on January 12, 1931.

ROLAND ALPHONSO helped to shape the distinctive sound of Jamaican music that blossomed after independence in 1962, a joyous, syncopated beat that was known first as ska, then as rock steady, and which later gave birth to reggae. His tenor saxophone graced many of the greatest records produced in Jamaica over three decades, including sessions with Jimmy Cliff, the Maytals, and Bob Marley and the Wailers, and the records he made with his band the Skatalites are among the finest of their genre.

He played the drums and then trumpet in the Alpha Boys Catholic School band in Kingston, before his mother bought him his first saxophone when he was 15. At first playing in hotels to entertain tourists, by the 1950s he was an in-demand session player, making his first recordings in 1954. He was soon working for the influential producers Coxsone Dodd and Duke Reid and playing in a band called Clue J and His Blues Blasters, which included the guitarist Ernest Ranglin and trombonist Rico Rodriguez.

At the time, the Jamaican sound was based on American rhythm 'n' blues, with doses of swing and calypso, but with independence in the air, the mood was right for a distinctively Jamaican music. A new beat developed, which Alphonso helped to originate, and which became known as ska.

Dodd put together a band to play the new music and named them the Satellites, which the group's leader, Tommy McCook, soon changed to the punning Skatalites. Like Alphonso, McCook was a tenor saxophonist and, with the trombonist Don Drummond, they formed the most famous horn section Jamaica has ever produced. All three are now dead.

The Skatalites stayed together for barely two years from 1964, but in that time they made hundreds of classic instrumental recordings, as well as playing with virtually everyone who was then making records in Jamaica. Their best-known tracks included *Guns of Navarone*, which became a big club hit in Britain and was later covered by The Specials.

Personality clashes and the complicated politics of the Jamaican record business contributed to the group's demise, but the final straw came when Drummond, the group's main composer, stabbed his girlfriend to death on New Year's Day, 1965. Drummond, who had already had two voluntary spells in a mental asylum, was committed again and died four years later.

Alphonso was persuaded by Dodd to join the Soul Brothers and enjoyed local hits such as *Dr Ring A Ding* and *Miss Ska-Culation*. In 1967 he joined the Soul Vendors, led by Jackie Mittoo, but he continued as a top session player at Dodd's Studio One, as well as making two splendid solo albums, *The Best of Roland Alphonso* and *King Of Sax*.

By the late 1970s he was working as a session musician for Bunny Lee's studio, but when the 2 Tone movement in Britain rekindled interest in ska, the Skatalites re-formed in 1983, basing themselves in America. A series of fine albums followed, the most recent of them 1997's *Ball of Fire*. Much of the group's earlier catalogue was re-released, and interest in their music had never been greater.

Alphonso was on stage with the Skatalites at the Key Club in Hollywood when he burst a blood vessel after playing a solo. He died later in hospital.

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LEGAL NOTICES

No. 006004 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF FAMILYDOCTOR PUBLICATIONS LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 11th November 1998 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £1,143,200 to £114,320 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 17th November 1998.
Dated this 23rd day of November 1998
Russell-Cooke Potter & Chapman of 2 Putney Hill, Putney, London SW15 6AB Solicitors for the above-named Company

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Herbody Limited t/a Glaze on Film
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Ainsworth Suite, Ramada Hotel, Blackfriars, Manchester on 3rd December 1998 at Noon for the purposes provided for in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Pursuant to Section 98(2) of the Act lists of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge, at Stephen Coan & Co., 2nd Floor, 17 St Ann's Square, Manchester M2 7PW on the two business days before the day of the meeting.
Dated 20th November 1998
H P Briggs-Smith
Director

To all whom it may concern
TAKE NOTICE THAT I FRANCESCO MARZANO of 13, St. Mary's Terrace, Little Venice, London W2 1SD having for the last six months carried on the trade or calling of Restaurateur intend to apply at the Licensing Sessions to be held at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court, 51, Holloway Road, London, N.7. 8JA on Monday the 7th day of December 1998 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon for the grant to me of a New Justices' Licence authorising me to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption on the premises situate at: 196 Shoreditch High Street, London, E.1. a plan of which premises has been deposited with the Clerk to the Licensing Justices together with this notice.
AND it is my intention to apply to the Justices to insert in such Justices' licence the conditions required for it to be granted as a restaurant licence.
Dated the 20th day of November 1998
Signed T.V. EDWARDS
(Authorised Agent on behalf of the Applicant)

SHELL TREASURY DOLLAR COMPANY LIMITED
Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA
Pursuant to section 178 of the Companies Act 1985

To whom it may concern: Notice is hereby given that at Extraordinary General Meeting of above-named Company held on 24th November 1998 at 14:00 hrs, a Special Resolution was duly passed that a payment of US$2500,000,000 out of the Company's capital (as defined in section 173 of the Companies Act 1985), in respect of the redemption of 600,000,000 Redeemable shares of US$1.00 each, by the Company, from The Shell Petroleum Company Limited, Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA, under section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 be authorised.
The amount of the permissible capital repayment as defined by sections 170, 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985 was US$2500,000,000.
The Company is not obliged to redeem any of the Redeemable Shares if, on the redemption date, the Company demonstrates in accordance with the Companies Articles of Association that the applicable exchange rate for pounds sterling against US dollars is less than 1.53.
The statutory declaration of the Directors and the Auditors' Report required by section 173 of the said Act are available for inspection at the Registered Office of the Company situate at Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA, and any Creditor of the Company may at any time within the period of five weeks immediately following 24 November 1998, (being the date of the above mentioned special resolution) apply to the High Court under section 176 of the said Act for an Order prohibiting the payment.
24 November 1998

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased persons concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

POSKETT W G, deed late of Apartado de Correos P.O. Box 86 03780 Pego, Alicante Spain. All claims to Colemans Solicitors 141 New London Road Chelmsford Essex on or before 24.1.1999.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS

(from the *Athenaeum*)

We were the first to announce, a few weeks ago, that the Government purposed taking immediate steps to send out expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin and his party. We are now enabled to present our readers with the following particulars, which proceed from the highest official authority. Three expeditions will be sent to the Arctic regions: one will be despatched within the course of a few days to Behring's Straits; the second will sail early next spring to Baffin's Bay, and will be under the command of Sir James Ross; and the third will consist of an overland expedition to be placed under the direction of Sir John Richardson.

The boats, with their crews of 20 men, belonging to the last-named expedition, went out to Hudson's Bay during the late summer, and intelligence of their safe arrival at York Factory and departure for the interior has reached this country. They were to winter at Cumberland-house, or at Saskatchewan river, and as soon as the navigation opens in the spring are to resume their journey to the Mackenzie River. Sir John Richardson and another officer will leave England, in March next, for Canada; and, by travelling in light canoes by the usual route of the fur-traders to the north-west, they hope to overtake the boats in July and with them to reach the Arctic Sea in the beginning of August — with an ample supply of nutritious and solid food. The intention of this party is to track the coast to the eastward of the Mackenzie River — to communicate with the various tribes of Esquimaux, in expectation of gleaning some tidings of the discovery ships — to examine Wollaston Land, and trace, as far as practicable, any inlets that may lead to the north and when the season closes, to repair to winter quarters at Great Bear Lake, by the Copper Mine River. The boat parties to be sent out from the vessel which is to winter within Behring's Straits, together with parties over the ice in the spring, will, it is hoped, fully explore the sea to the westward of the Mackenzie — and as one of Sir James Ross's ships is to stationed in Lancaster Sound, at the north end of North Somerset, parties sent out thence, both to the northward and southward, will explore that neighbourhood. Another of Sir James's ships will push on to Banks Land, and in like manner send out exploring parties in every direction . . .

Notwithstanding that the Admiralty have judged it prudent to prepare for these extensive searches, we are gratified at being informed that most of the officers, who are qualified to judge in these matters, continue to hope that Sir John has succeeded in passing Behring's Straits. Had his vessels been nipped in the ice he would, we are assured, have returned to England about this time. As he has not done so they consider it probable that he succeeded in getting so well to the westward the first year that he has been able to clear Behring's Strait this October, in which case they would look for tidings, either through Russia or by the Isthmus of Panama, in February next.

ON THIS DAY

November 27, 1847

In May 1845 Sir John Franklin set off in the Erebus *and* Terror *to find the Northwest Passage. Nothing was heard from them. In 1859 the ships were found, frozen in the ice, with evidence that Sir John had died in June 1847.*

NEWS

Pinochet 'unfit to stand trial'

■ General Augusto Pinochet, 83, was assessed by a psychiatrist yesterday as his lawyers prepared an attempt to persuade Jack Straw that he is mentally unfit to stand trial. The former Chilean dictator is said to be suffering from a stress-related disorder which could give the Home Secretary legal grounds to refuse to extradite him to Spain.

He is under the care of the medical director of the Grovelands Priory Hospital, north London, where he has been recovering from spinal surgery ..... Page 1

Blair addresses Eire parliament

■ Tony Blair used the first speech ever delivered by a British Prime Minister to Ireland's parliament to herald the end of centuries of Anglo-Irish enmity and the start of a new era of friendship and co-operation ..... Page 1

Rape family's tragedy

The suffering of a family was disclosed after a burglar was given five life sentences for rape. As William Kenealy went to prison it emerged that the girl's sister had drowned and her body lay undiscovered for two weeks ..... Page 1

Child jail troubles

Eleven teenage tearaways are to be removed from Britain's troubled first child jail after the Home Office ordered urgent refurbishments and improvements in staff training and control ..... Page 1

Boost for fathers

A judge gave a boost to "father power" by ruling that a father was the right parent of a broken marriage to bring up his two-year-old child ..... Page 3

Plan to beat poverty

A radical, uncosted plan to close the health gap between rich and poor by eliminating poverty was put forward by an independent Government inquiry ..... Page 11

Judge pays costs

Judge Richard Gee, who escaped a second fraud trial after doctors said the ordeal could drive him to suicide, failed to have his legal costs refunded ..... Page 13

Loss for Blair

Tony Blair is about to lose one of his closest aides and is struggling to find a replacement to take on the treadmill of life inside his private office ..... Page 14

Japan angers PoWs

British veterans who suffered at the hands of the Japanese in prison camps during the Second World War expressed outrage over the decision by a Tokyo court to reject their claims for compensation ..... Page 16

Asian rift

Asia's two great powers were at diplomatic loggerheads after failing to sign a text in which Japan was to have apologised for wartime atrocities ..... Page 17

Holocaust blacklist

Israel is demanding more access to international Holocaust-era archives and has published a "blacklist" of repositories it says have obstructed researchers, including MI5 ..... Page 18

Ex-President flees

The Reverend Canaan Banana, 62, Zimbabwe's first head of state, was convicted of 11 charges of homosexual abuse. He has fled to neighbouring Botswana, and is seeking political asylum. Page 19

The Schröder effect

Attempts to depict Gerhard Schröder as a Teutonic Tony Blair may be far off the mark, but his arrival in power will recast the European landscape ..... Page 20

Russian 'blackmail'

President Yeltsin's former chief bodyguard accused a financial magnate of trying to blackmail the president's family ..... Page 21

Santa gets education clause

■ Rex, a middle-aged man who answers only to the name of Father Christmas, is running Britain's first course in Santa Clausing. Three students at an adult education college are learning how to befriend children without scaring parents. Today's Santas have to study voice projection and produce a police certificate proving they have a clean record ..... Page 5

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Dermot Cronin, Principal Keeper of North Foreland Lighthouse at Broadstairs, which became fully automated yesterday at a ceremony attended by the Duke of Edinburgh. Walney Lighthouse, Barrow-in-Furness, is now Britain's last to be fully manned.

BUSINESS

M&S shares dip: Shares in Marks & Spencer fell almost 6 per cent on confirmation of the appointment of Peter Salsbury as chief executive, with Sir Richard Greenbury remaining as non-executive chairman ..... Page 29

Oil threat: Thousands of jobs could be lost in Britain if Exxon and Mobil receive regulatory approval for a proposed £145billion merger ..... Page 29

US deal: J Sainsbury is expanding in America with the £294million purchase of Star Markets in New Hampshire ..... Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 72.6 to 5827.9. The pound fell .06 cents to $1.6612 and .27 pfennig to DM2.8297. The pound index fell to 101.6 from 101.7 ..... Page 32

SPORT

Tennis: Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski face each other today in the ATP world championship. Henman has already qualified for the semi-finals after defeating Alex Corretja in three sets ..... Page 56

Cricket: England delayed selection of their team for the second Test against Australia in Perth when Graham Thorpe suffered a recurrence of his back injury ..... Page 56

Football: Liverpool are set to complete the signing from Istanbulspor of Jean-Michel Ferri, a defensive midfield player who has played five times for France ..... Page 52

Rugby union: Andy Irvine resigned from his post on the Scottish RU, pouring scorn on the general committee and its executive chairman, Duncan Paterson ..... Page 53

ARTS

On song: Lesley Garrett sings a traditional Rosina in The Barber of Seville at the Coliseum, and proves that you can hear every word a soprano sings ..... Page 38

School rules: "If you want to create a cultured nation, you first create cultured children" — Richard Morrison states the obvious, and hopes somebody is listening ..... Page 39

Pop 1: Jools Holland on the Thames Basin v the Mississippi Delta for rhythm and blues (the Thames is better); plus Caitlin Moran on real lyrics, and new jazz albums ..... Page 40

Pop 2: David Sinclair reviews the best of the week's new pop albums; plus the Lighthouse Family in concert, and a jazz singer who delivers a surprising punch ..... Page 41

FEATURES

Fables and foundlings: The abandonment of children by their parents has a long history ..... Page 23

Parking rage: "Most drivers in London are trying to find a place to park so they can finally get out and do last year's Christmas shopping," says Joe Joseph ..... Page 23

STYLE

White magic: Jane Shilling suggests a foray into snow white or ivory ..... Page 22

MEDIA

Italian job: Rupert Murdoch tells Raymond Snoddy about Milan-based News Corp Europe and his plans to forge a European partnership ..... Page 43

SUPPLEMENT

Christmas books: Inside today's paper: A 16-page guide on what to look for in the bookshops this Christmas.

THE PAPERS

It is probable that for the majority of Chileans, the decision by the Law Lords of Great Britain, who reversed this country's High Court decision this year which recognised the lifelong immunity of state for Senator Augusto Pinochet, came as a surprise. Most Chileans think that for the tranquillity of our country, he must return immediately.

— La Tercera, Chile

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Preview: Bullets fly as a police informer gets violent. *Dangerfield* (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Paul Hoggart on Jools Holland doing a Judith Chalmers ..... Pages 54, 55

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A debt unpaid

China's overture has been ill-rewarded by Japan's Government, which has gratuitously angered and offended all Chinese by its stubborn and foolish refusal to include in the joint communique the simple word, sorry ..... Page 25

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Some cogs in the machinery of government are bigger than others. The forthcoming departure of John Holmes will leave an especially large hole at the centre of Downing Street ..... Page 25

Free books for schools

Oliver Goldsmith thought the pleasure of reading an excellent book was like gaining a new friend. Sadly, some children never make such friends ..... Page 25

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The great dead thinkers have at bottom a good sense which is badly needed in the scrums and the saddles of English sport of pigs managed by donkeys ..... Page 24

SIMON JENKINS

Like the storyteller, the bookshop carries the message. It watches, listens, holds the tribal secrets tight bound on its shelves. Like the storyteller, it refreshes its message with new titles every day ..... Page 24

MARY ANN SEIGHART

Standards of state secondary schools in London are shockingly, disgracefully bad. The world-class capital city has a third-class education ..... Page 24

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Canon Peter Boulton, former Chaplain to the Queen; **Professor Nicholas Kurti**, physicist; **Roland Alphonso**, saxophonist; **Jane Annakin**, theatrical agent. Page 27

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Pinochet judgment: National Trust policies: stewardship of countryside; demise of poetry list; electoral closed lists; non-payment for water; Wooster monocle; expletives not deleted; irritating expressions; M&S difficulties ..... Page 25



TOMORROW

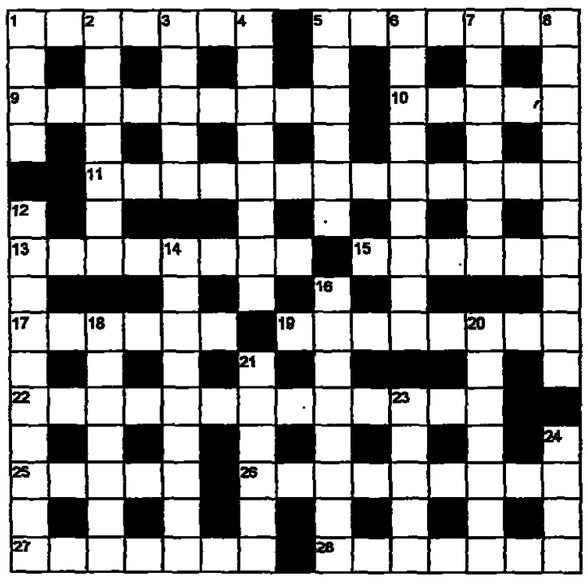
IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

■ DANNY'S BACK
Danny Baker resumes his Saturday football column

■ THE THUG'S THUG
Meet Vinnie Jones, the footballer who turned violence on the pitch into a screen career



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,960



ACROSS

1 Book, one passed on to descendants by relative (7).
5 Man about to fail to take catch, for example (7).
9 Insect flew pointlessly into food store (9).
10 Show, not a delightful entertainment (5).
11 Apocalyptic future vision warrior's given to his continent (5,3,5).
13 In summary, have finished struggle with wife (8).
15 Compelling dope to stay in bed (6).
17 Notice animal's accommodated on Ark, for example (6).
19 Writer's block restricting girl (8).
22 Seen fawning revoltingly round a king, Ulysses' successor (9,4).
25 River commonly said to be dark brown (5).
26 Party organiser has circular for collection (4-5).
27 Banshee possibly could do for one declining (3-4).
28 Well-bred set capturing record? Almost (7).

DOWN

1 Mock exam's beginning after major upset (4).
2 Bigwig — why he eats off his lap? (7).
3 No bath for Solomon's mother before state visit from here? (5).
4 Stuff for treating water succeeded with greater regularity (8).
5 Old satirist is boring to study (6).
6 Test of opinion gets desperate measure cut (5,4).
7 Popular part of the Bible? Just the opposite (7).
8 Sort of electronics firm, say (5-5).
12 Winning hand producing sign the king's embarrassed? (5,5).
14 See strange tree on hillside showing lots of spiny segments (9).
16 Getting down overheads in court? Excellent! (8).
18 Works collected in No. 10, perhaps? (7).
20 Four expelled from government and put to death (7).
21 Largely mysterious success for naturalist (6).
23 Part in theatre needed in kitchen-sink work? (5).
24 Pyramidologist reveals pagan statue (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,959

C	R	E	E	P		R	E	P	U	G	N	A	N	T
A		R		L		U		E		A		R		A
M	E	R	G	A	N	S	E	R		S	A	C	K	S
E		O		T		H		I		C		H		T
M	A	R	T	I	N		A	P	P	O	S	I	T	E
B			N		C		H		N		T			
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R		O		M		R		P		C		L		
T	O	L	D		A	P	P	A	R	E	N	T	L	Y
		T		S		E		L		N			W	
H	E	S	I	T	A	N	T		S	C	R	A	P	E
A		F		R		T		A		H		B		I
V	I	O	L	A		E	N	D	E	A	R	I	N	G
O		O		T		R		D		N		D		H
C	A	T	H	A	R	S	I	S		T	R	E	A	T

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AA INFORMATION

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.38 am — Sun sets: 3.58 pm
Moon sets: - — Moon rises 1.15 pm

First quarter today
London 3.58 pm to 7.39 am
Bristol 4.08 pm to 7.49 am
Edinburgh 3.49 pm to 9.14 am
Manchester 3.57 pm to 7.57 am
Penzance 4.28 pm to 7.55 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
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FORECAST

☐ **General:** cloudy; rain and drizzle in the morning, dry and mild this afternoon. Scotland wet all day. Northern Ireland may have a few brief bright intervals in east.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central N & S England, E Midlands, E England:** cloudy, rain and drizzle moving in from west but dying out this afternoon and becoming mild. Moderate SW wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** dull morning with sporadic rain, drier and milder afternoon with drizzle confined to western coasts and hills. Moderate SW wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** cloudy with drizzle, becoming increasingly mild. Moderate S to SW wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** mild and overcast with rain at times, especially over mountains. Strengthening SW wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy, outbreaks of rain and drizzle. Stiff S to SW wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Northern Ireland:** patchy rain and drizzle this morning, mostly dry this afternoon with a few bright spells in east. Mild but blustery SW wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Irish Republic:** mostly cloudy with rain or drizzle in S and W. Fresh SW wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Outlook:** Scotland and Northern Ireland a little colder on Saturday, with sunshine and showers. England and Wales mild and wet. Sunday colder everywhere with sunny spells and showers; prolonged rain will reach the west in the afternoon.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

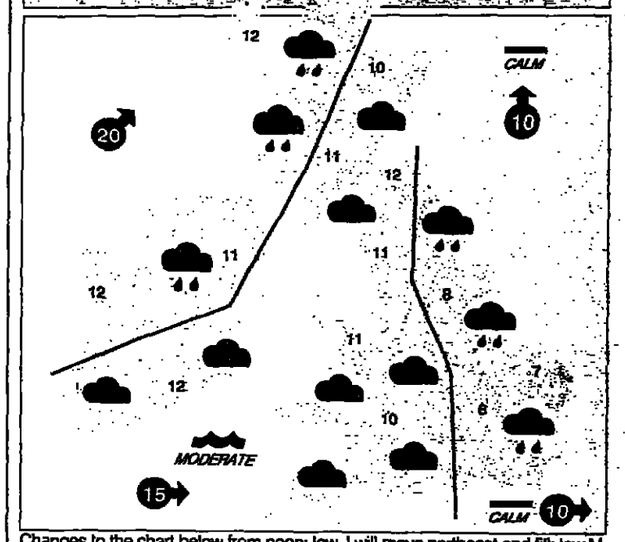
	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.2	0.10	10	50	r	Kinloss	0.3	0.24	8	46	sh
Anglesey	-	0.18	11	52	r	Leeds	0.3	0.05	11	52	r
Aspatria	1.1	0.21	10	50	sh	Lerwick	-	0.26	8	46	r
Aviemore	3.3	0.41	9	48	sh	Leuchars	6.0	0.06	10	50	sh
Belfast	1.0	0.11	10	50	sh	Littlehmptn	-	0.01	10	50	du
Birmingham	-	0.09	10	50	r	London	-	0.01	11	52	r
Bognor R	-	-	10	50	c	Lowestoft	-	0.09	9	48	r
Bournem'th	-	0.01	12	54	c	Manchester	0.6	0.36	11	52	r
Bristol	-	0.01	12	54	c	Margate	-	0.03	9	48	r
Buxton	-	0.54	9	48	c	Morecambe	0.5	0.52	10	50	r
Cardiff	-	0.01	12	54	c	Newcastle	3.1	0.02	11	52	r
Clacton	0.4	-	9	48	du	Norwich	-	0.10	9	48	r
Cleethorpes	-	0.11	10	50	c	Oxford	-	0.01	11	52	r
Cromer	-	0.15	9	48	r	Penzance	1.0	0.01	13	55	c
Eastbourne	-	0.01	11	52	c	Poole	-	-	12	54	c
Edinburgh	5.4	0.20	10	50	s	Prestatyn	-	0.21	10	50	c
Eskdalemuir	3.7	0.39	9	48	sh	Ross on Wye	-	-	12	54	c
Exmouth	3.6	0.01	12	54	b	Saunton Snd	-	0.01	12	54	r
Fishguard	-	0.01	11	52	r	Scarboro'	3.1	0.10	10	50	r
Folkestone	0.3	0.01	9	48	r	Shrewsbury	-	0.08	11	52	r
Glasgow	4.3	0.47	11	52	sh	Skegness	-	0.10	10	50	sh
Guernsey	-	-	13	55	c	Southend	-	0.01	7	45	d
Hastings	-	0.01	10	50	c	Southport	X	0.37	11	52	r
Hayling I.	-	0.01	11	52	c	Southsea	0.1	0.01	12	54	c
Herne Bay	0.3	0.01	10	50	r	Swanage	-	0.01	12	54	c
Hove	-	-	10	50	du	Teignmouth	2.9	0.01	13	55	c
Hunstanton	-	0.11	8	46	r	Tenby	-	0.01	12	54	c
Isle of Man	3.3	0.17	12	54	s	Tiree	3.0	0.27	10	50	sh
Isle-of-wight	-	0.01	11	52	c	Torquay	0.2	0.01	13	55	du
Jersey	-	0.02	12	54	c	Weymouth	-	-	12	54	c

ABROAD

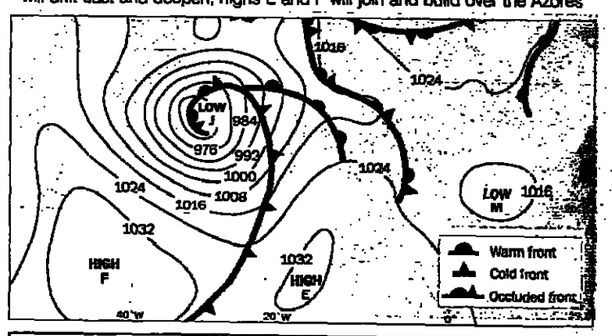
Ajaccio	13	55	s	Cologne	1	34	c	Madrid	9	48	s
Akrotiri	21	70	s	Corfu	14	57	f	Majorca	15	59	f
Alex'dria	23	73	f	C'phagn	1	34	c	Malaga	18	64	s
Algiers	16	61	s	Dublin	8	46	s	Malta	16	61	s
Amst'dm	1	34	c	Dubrovnik	10	50	f	Mello'me	X		
Athens	17	63	f	Faro	18	64	s	Mexico C	X		
B Aires	24	75	s	Florence	X			Miami	27	81	s
Bahrain	29	84	s	Frankfurt	1	34	c	Milan	5	41	f
Bangkok	31	88	s	Funchal	19	66	c	Montreal	2	35	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	1	34	s	Moscow	-7	19	s
Barcelona	11	52	f	Gibraltar	17	63	s	Munich	0	32	s
Beijing	0	32	c	Helsinki	1	34	c	N Delhi	23	73	s
Beirut	21	70	f	Hong K	23	73	f	N York	9	48	f
Belgrade	3	37	c	Innsbruck	0	32	s	Nairobi	25	77	f
Berlin	-3	27	d	Istanbul	11	52	f	Naples	11	52	r
Bermuda	21	70	s	Jeddah	32	90	c	Nice	12	54	f
Biarritz	10	50	r	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Oslo	X		
Bordeaux	11	52	s	L Angeles	17	63	s	Paris	1	34	d
Brussels	2	35	c	L Palmas	23	73	f	Perth	X		
Budapest	2	36	c	Le Touquet	1	34	f	Prague	-3	26	c
Cairo	25	77	s	Lisbon	17	63	f	Reykjavik	2	36	f
Cape Tn	21	70	s	Locarno	5	41	c	Rhodes	18	64	f
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	-1	30	s	Rio de J	26	79	s
Chicago	11	52	r	Luxor	29	84	s	Riyadh	28	84	s
								Rome	11	52	f
								S Fr'isco	12	54	s
								S Paulo	X		
								Salzburg	-4	25	f
								Santiago	27	81	s
								Seoul	7	45	s
								Sing'por	32	90	f
								St'kholm	1	34	d
								Strasb'rg	-1	30	c
								Sydney	20	68	f
								Tangier	17	63	s
								Tel Aviv	23	73	s
								Tenerife	21	70	c
								Tokyo	14	57	s
								Toronto	5	41	f
								Tunis	15	59	f
								Valencia	16	61	s
								Vanc'ver	6	46	r
								Venice	8	46	f
								Vienna	0	32	c
								Warsaw	-6	21	s
								Wash'ton	12	54	f
								Wel'ington	16	61	X
								Zurich	1	34	s

Temperatures at midday local time Wednesday. X — not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low J will move northeast and fill; low M will drift east and deepen; highs E and F will join and build over the Azores



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	6:59	3.6	19:09	3.7	Liverpool	4:15	7.7	16:48	8.0
Avonmouth	-	-	12:18	10.5	London Bridge	6:33	6.2	18:21	6.1
Belfast	4.18	3.0	16.32	3.2	Lowestoft	2:14	2.3	15:33	2.2
Cardiff	-	-	12:04	9.9	Margate	4:52	4.3	17:38	4.2
Dovonport	10:26	4.8	23.10	4.5	Milford Haven	11:35	5.6	-	-
Dover	3:57	5.7	16.40	5.5	Newquay	10:35	5.7	23.13	5.5
Dublin	5.24	3.4	17.30	3.6	Oban	11.35	3.3	23:45	3.0
Falmouth	9:57	4.6	22.41	4.3	Penzance	10:01	4.7	22.40	4.4
Greenock	5.39	3.1	17.57	3.2	Portland	11:48	1.6	-	-
Harwich	4.32	3.5	17.17	3.5	Portsmouth	4:39	4.1	16:55	4.0
Holyhead	3:40	4.6	16:06	4.8	Shoreham	4:22	5.3	18:50	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	11.40	7.2	23.58	7.4	Southampton	3:53	4.1	16:17	4.0
Ilfracombe	11:20	7.4	23.56	7.2	Swansea	11:42	7.7	-	-
King's Lynn	11:51	5.2	-	-	Tees	9:25	4.8	21:38	4.7
Leith	8.08	4.7	20:25	4.7	Walton-On-Naze	4:26	3.7	17:17	3.7

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Belle Sound, Shetland, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Lusa, Isle of Skye, 0.81in; highest sunshine: Lisuchara, Fife, 6hr.



RNLI RESCUE UPDATE – 27 NOVEMBER 1998

Total number of lives saved so far this year:	901
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	4,970
Cost to RNLI per day:	£197,000
Cost to taxpayer:	£0
To make a donation, telephone:	0800 543210

Lifeboats
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Reg. Charity No. 209603

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هكذا من الأصل

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Bullets fly as a police informer gets violent. *Dangerfield*, BBC1, 9.30pm. **Review:** Paul Hogarth on Jools Holland doing a Judith Chalmers ..... Pages 54, 55

OPINION

A debt unpaid

... adventure has been ill-rewarded by Japan's Government, which has gratuitously angered and offended all Chinese by its ... and boorish refusal to include in the joint communique the ... sorry ..... Page 25

Gentlemen & players

... the machinery of ... are bigger than owners, ... departure of John ... leave an especially ... the centre of Downing ..... Page 25

Free books for schools

... with thought the pleasure ... an excellent book ... new friend. Sadly ... never make such ..... Page 25

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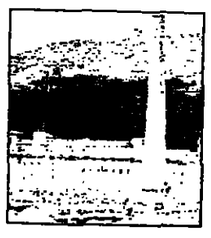
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft — FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27 1998

M&S board reshuffle fails to win over City

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MARKS & SPENCER shares dived 6 per cent yesterday as investors vented their disappointment with the retailer's boardroom reshuffle which they said did not go far enough.

The company announced that Peter Salsbury, who has worked there for 28 years and was the favoured candidate of Sir Richard Greenbury, the current chairman and chief executive, is to be appointed chief executive, starting in February next year.

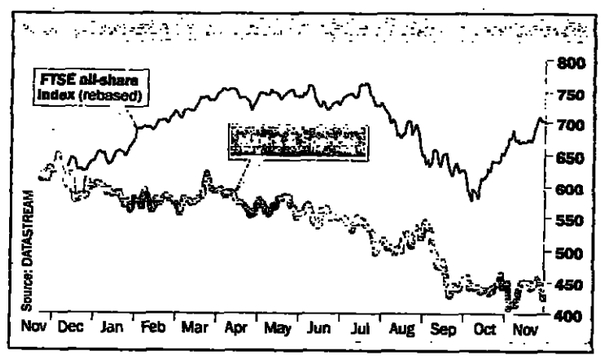
Sir Richard, 62, is staying on as non-executive chairman, but will retire a year earlier than expected, in July 2000. His deputy, Keith Oates, whose attempt to replace him caused the boardroom crisis three weeks ago, has agreed to take early retirement.

The news was followed by a drop in M&S's share price from 445½p to 421p. The company did not appoint an outside deputy chief executive, a move that some institutional shareholders had been pressing for.

"They are merely giving the job [of chief executive] to a man who, along with all the others, is responsible for all the current problems", John Richards, retail analyst at BT Alex Brown said. "All that has happened is that the one person who was from outside the company — namely Keith Oates — has gone."

One institutional investor described the changes as "an anti-climax" and said: "It is now up to the new team to address the problems."

Analysts noted that, as part of his job as joint managing director, Peter Salsbury has had responsibility for the clothing ranges that have been selling so poorly this season and that were partly behind the recently announced 23 per cent drop in first-half profits. Mr Salsbury confirmed that trading — described as "a bloodbath" by Sir Richard at the interim results — is showing no signs of improvement. Analysts also said that it may be hard for Mr Salsbury to put his imprint on the job with Sir Richard Greenbury still in place as chairman, albeit as a non-executive.



Mr Salsbury said that Sir Richard would not now be working for the company part-time, but insisted that the relationship would work. "The confidence I have is because he's been very, very clear that this is a new learning situation for him. He has to learn to be a good non-executive chairman."

Mr Salsbury admitted that the boardroom row had damaged the company. "The staff have hated it. They have not only had comments from customers, but they are also very proud of the company. We are attempting from this morning to rebuild confidence."

Keith Oates is currently negotiating a settlement with the company. His payoff is expected to be considerable. Had he stayed 3½ more years, until he was 60, he would have become entitled to a pension of two thirds of his final annual salary. There is an early retirement scheme set up by the company, under which directors can receive the equivalent of full pay until the age of 60 if they leave earlier, but this assumes 25 years' service with the company. Mr Oates has worked for Marks & Spencer for 15 years.

Mr Oates was paid a salary of £526,000 last year. His total pay, including bonuses, benefits and profit-sharing, was £646,000. According to the company's latest annual report, he also owns 307,574 shares in the company, worth £1.3 million, and options worth at least £2.5 million.

He said he was disappointed to be retiring early from Marks & Spencer and "would very much welcome the challenge of one more full-time role in the UK or overseas".

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Textiles shake-out, page 33

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5827.9	(+72.6)
Yield	2.77%	
FTSE All Share	2660.89	(+27.98)
Nikkei	15207.77	(+134.30)
New York:		
Dow Jones	Closed	
S&P Composite		

US RATE

Federal Funds	Closed	(4¾%)
Long bond	—	(100⁹⁄₃₂)
Yield	—	(5.19%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6¾%	(6¾%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	116.73	(116.10)

STERLING

New York:		
$	Closed*	(1.6603)
London:		
$	1.6611	(1.6620)
DM	2.8298	(2.8330)
FFr	9.4882	(9.4986)
SFr	2.3395	(2.3411)
Yen	203.45	(202.64)
£ index	101.6	(101.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	Closed	(1.7034)
FFr	—	(5.7111)
SFr	—	(1.4110)
Yen	—	(121.70)
$ index	107.1	(107.4)

Tokyo close Yen 121.91

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent15-day(Feb)	$11.20	($11.20)

GOLD

London close	$296.45	($296.05)

* denotes midday trading prices

Merger talks send oil shares soaring

BY CARL MORTISHED AND OLIVER AUGUST

EUROPEAN oil shares were set alight yesterday over transatlantic rumours that Exxon and Mobil are plotting the world's largest industrial merger.

Shares in Shell Transport, BP, Elf and Total climbed on hopes of a merger wave. The prospect of Exxon and Mobil forming a $240 billion colossus, dominating the world oil industry was enough to shake off concern about the oil price that finished the day at just $10.96 a barrel and could soon sink below $10 a barrel.

However, regulators in Washington and Brussels will be alarmed by the sight of two former Standard Oil companies in talks that could reassemble the bones of a cartel that was broken up in 1911.

Both companies are descendants of John D. Rockefeller's empire: Exxon was formerly Standard Oil of New Jersey, while Mobil was once Standard Oil of New York, and both have large market shares on America's Eastern Seaboard. Their downstream interests in Europe would also lead to huge market shares in the UK, Benelux countries and Germany and an inevitable European Commission inquiry.

One US investment banker said: "The Federal Trade Commission cannot ignore it. The land mark case in FTC history was the breakup of Standard Oil."

But the weak oil price is rewriting the script and forcing companies into alliances in a desperate effort to cut costs. Talks between Exxon and Mobil follow the merger last summer of two other former Standard Oil businesses. BP's takeover of Amoco brought Standard Oil of Ohio, owned by BP, back together with the former Standard Oil of Indiana in a deal that will save $2 billion with drastic cutbacks in staff.

Fergus MacLeod, oil analyst at BT Alex Brown, sees the Exxon-Mobil talks as a potential rerun of BP-Amoco. In this case, the parsimonious Exxon would weild the knife on Mobil's assets. "Exxon consistently has a return on capital a few points higher than Mobil. Exxon would get an efficiency gain with somebody else's assets."

A deal would not be without problems and in the UK the two companies would suffer huge upheavals. Esso UK has almost 3,000 staff including 400 in subsidiaries and controls 16 per cent of the UK petrol market. However, its entire North Sea exploration interests are operated by rival Shell in a joint venture.

Mobil has 1,800 UK staff, of which 400 are in Aberdeen or working offshore. Its downstream interest are part of the BP-Mobil European downsream joint venture.

Industry experts reckon that Exxon might have to sell Mobil's share of the joint venture to BP. Exxon-Mobil would otherwise end up with some 30 per cent of the market for refined oil products in the UK as well as huge market shares in The Netherlands and Germany.

The pursuit of downstream efficiency has become a focus as the low oil price cripples upstream profits. In Vienna yesterday Opec failed to extend last June's production cuts and observers believe that Saudi Arabia has implicitly opted to keep oil prices low in a search for marke share.

Exxon-Mobil would create a true giant with combined oil output of 2.3 million barrels and reserves totalling more than 20 billion barrels.

ROLAND LEON



Ralph Findlay, left, Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries finance director, and David Thompson

Marston's denounces £262m bid by W&DB

BY DOMINIC WALSH

MARSTON, Thompson & Evershed, the Pedigree bitter brewer, yesterday branded a £262 million bid from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries as "unwelcome" and "wholly inadequate".

W&DB, which signalled its interest two weeks ago, is offering 280p a share — 182p in cash and the rest in shares. Marston's shares rose 41p to 287½p, as analysts predicted that W&DB would have to sweeten its offer.

Marston's said that it would consider improving its own scheme to use the sale of its tenanted pubs to return £60 million to shareholders. The disposal, via a securitisation deal with Nomura, the securities house, would raise £137 million.

The bid puts the spotlight on Marston's special meeting on December 9, when investors will vote on the securitisation. The W&DB offer is conditional upon the sale of the tenancies not going through, although Marston's pointed out that a clause in the Wolves offer meant that shareholders could approve securitisation and still weigh their options.

David Thompson, W&DB managing director, said that a merger would bring £12 million of cost savings, although there would be no brewery closures. It would "build a strong platform on which to compete against the national brewers" and he expected no problems with monopolies issues.

W&DB lifted full-year pretax profits 4.7 per cent, to £45 million. Earnings per share reached 51.6p (46.8p). A 13.3ip final dividend makes 20.57p.

Sainsbury's in £294m US acquisition

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

J SAINSBURY, the supermarket group, confirmed its determination to become a big player in America by spending £294 million to acquire Star Markets, a chain of food stores based in New England.

It is acquiring the business from Investcorp, the Bahrain investment group. Star Markets has 25 supermarkets and 24 superstores in the Boston and Cape Cod area and employs 10,000 people.

Sainsbury's already owns Shaw's, a 126-store chain of supermarkets that operates in six New England states and employs 22,000. The deal will mean its market share in New England will rise from 15 per cent to 21 per cent.

"We believe that we've got a very strong business in the US, and are committed to rising to $10 billion (£6 billion) of US sales over the next five to seven years." Dino Adriano, chief executive, said. Star Markets had turnover of about $1 billion last year, and the deal will take Sainsbury's total sales in the US to $4 billion.

Star Markets made a loss before tax of $8.2 million. Of the total of $490 million that Sainsbury's is paying, $269 million is to pay off debt. Sainsbury's believes that, within three years, it can save $40 million a year from centralising services, purchasing and other functions.

Mr Adriano said that while consolidation among the larger US players is moving fast, there are still many opportunities to buy smaller operators. The deal should provide $14 million of synergies

Questions were raised over Sainsbury's overseas strategy after it sold its 20 per cent stake in Giant Food, a much larger US supermarket business, to Ahold, the Dutch group, earlier this year. It had been expected to bid for Giant. Ahold also owns the Stop & Shop supermarket business which is the market leader in New England with 27 per cent.

Sainsbury's shares slid back from 528p to 515p on news of the deal. "At least it has become clear that it is a buyer rather than a seller. But it will be the next deal that is interesting, not this one," said one City analyst.

Hopes of rate cut boost FTSE

THE FTSE 100 advanced 72.6 to 5,827.9 yesterday amid rising hopes of another imminent cut in base rates.

The Confederation of British Industry cut its forecast for United Kingdom growth next year and joined the British Chambers of Commerce in demanding a reduction in interest rates to help industry avert recession.

The confederation's latest monthly industrial trends survey, published yesterday, indicates that total order books remained at their lowest point since 1992.

Page 30

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Sheikh breathes life into Dragon

BY SAEED SHAH

SHEIKH Hamdan al-Maktoum, the racehorse owner, yesterday emerged as the driving force behind a plan to revitalise Dragon Oil, one of the more exotic companies in London's beleaguered energy sector.

The sheikh is chairman of Emirates National Oil Company (Enoc), owned by the Government of Dubai, which yesterday acquired a 46 per cent interest in Dragon Oil, triggering a mandatory takeover for the business.

The shares are being acquired from Satellite Overseas, the investment vehicle of Arifin Panigoro, the Indonesian businessman. Mr Panigoro, chairman of Dragon, offered the stake for sale in May, seeking to raise funds at a time when his diverse business interests were severely affected by the Asian credit crunch.

Enoc is acquiring Mr Panigoro's shares at 15p a share, a discount to Thursday's closing price of 18½p. The shares have fallen sharply from 73½p over the past 12 months, with investors taking fright at the uncertain outlook for oil prices and the absence of an obvious buyer for Mr Panigoro's shares.

However, yesterday's news lifted the shares 2p to 20½p. Mr Panigoro is resigning from the board of Dragon as part of the deal.

Dragon's main interest is in a Turkmenistan production licence in the Caspian, which has proven and probable reserves of about 600 million barrels of oil and about three trillion cubic feet of gas.

In July the company completed the first crude oil swap by a commercial company operating in the Caspian with the National Iranian Oil Company after signing a long-term swap with Iran in March.

Dragon was formed as Oliver Resources in 1981 by Oliver Waldron, a former Irish rugby international.

Now chief executive, he said yesterday the deal offered by al-Maktoum promised "terrific synergies", as Enoc is an upstream operation whereas Dragon is a downstream oil company.

CBI slashes growth forecast back to 0.7%

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday slashed its forecast for UK growth next year and, along with the British Chambers of Commerce, demanded another cut in base rates.

The CBI is now expecting growth of only 0.7 per cent in 1999, below the Chancellor's forecast of 1 to 1.5 per cent, and predicted that unemployment would rise to more than two million. The new growth forecast is 0.5 per cent lower than the one the CBI produced in August. Growth of 1.8 per cent is predicted for 2000.

These forecasts coincided with the CBI's latest monthly industrial trends survey which showed that total order books remained at their lowest point since 1992. Sterling's fall since the summer helped export orders but domestic orders weakened.

The most dramatic feature of the survey, however, was its measure of price expectations which fell to their lowest level for 23 years and suggested that manufacturing is now in the grip of outright deflation. Figures on price expectations for the coming four months showed that 34 per cent of companies predicted that prices would go down and only 4 per cent expected them to rise.

Kate Barker, CBI chief economic adviser, said: "We face a major slowdown next year and the risks to growth are clearly on the downside, while inflationary pressures are slight." She called for a 0.5 per cent cut in base rates this month.

Gilt prices reached their best levels for seven weeks on hopes that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will cut base rates at its meeting on December 9 and 10.

Testimony before the Treasury Select Committee yesterday by six of the MPC's nine members did nothing to dispel market hopes.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank, emphasised that the MPC would be as assiduous in avoiding an undershoot of the Government's inflation target as an overshoot. He also said that this week's news of a record trade deficit in September would weigh in the committee's discussions.

Meanwhile, Willem Buiter, who called for a 0.75 per cent cut in rates in November but only got 0.50 per cent, said that he had seen nothing since that meeting to change his view. This suggested that he will vote in favour of another 0.25 per cent.

The CBI said yesterday that it expected rates to fall to 5.5 per cent by the middle of next year and stay at that level throughout 2000. Separate figures released yesterday by the British Bankers' Association showed that net consumer credit rose by £203 million in October, a smaller rise than the £946 million recorded in September. Within the total, people were opting for structured personal loans rather than overdrafts or borrowing on credit cards.

However, the Credit Card Research Group said that credit and debit card spending jumped by 17 per cent in October having hit a record low of 11 per cent in September.

Banking survey, page 34

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BOC sells Benelux and German units

BOC GROUP, the UK industrial gases company, is selling its Benelux and German industrial gases operations to Air Liquide of France for £112 million. Announcing the sale, Danny Rosenkranz, BOC chief executive, said: "It was hard to see our Benelux and German businesses reaching the necessary level of returns despite the excellent efforts of our people in those territories." In the year to September 30, the businesses, which accounted for capital employed of £110.2 million, contributed operating profits of £3 million.

The four businesses being sold are Benelux Bulk & Tonnage, which operates a combined air separation unit and liquefier plant in The Netherlands; Benelux Compressed, which runs a cylinder-filling plant in Belgium; German Hydrogen, which operates a hydrogen gas pipeline; and German Compressed, operator of a cylinder-filling facility in Germany. BOC will use disposal proceeds to cut borrowings. BOC said that it expects the deal, which requires approval from competition authorities, to be completed early in 1999. It said that it will continue to supply helium to a range of industrial buyers and to meet gas needs of European semiconductor customers.

ICL signs for schools

ICL, the information technology company, will today sign the first National Grid for Learning Private Finance Initiative contract. ICL says that the contract, worth £12.5 million, will give 14,000 Scottish schoolchildren throughout Moray access to the latest IT technology. The contract, to be launched today by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, will bring e-mail and controlled Internet access to every Moray schoolchild. Schools will get more than 1,000 new computer terminals, linked to video-conferencing facilities and security cameras.

Oftel wins court ruling

THE High Court has upheld a ruling by Oftel, the telecoms regulator, that gives smaller mobile phone operators more marketing freedom. In May Oftel changed a rule that obliged all network operators to provide airtime to retailers selling mobile services directly to the public. Under the new rule small network operators, comprising Orange and One2One, can choose who they want to market their network services. The application for judicial review was made by Cellcom and a number of other mobile service providers.

Richemont suffers fall

RICHEMONT, the Swiss investment company that owns Rothmans International tobacco and Vendome Luxury Group, suffered a 3.3 per cent fall in attributable profits to £193.9 million in the first half. Operating profits were 15.1 per cent lower at £479.1 million on turnover down 5.4 per cent to £2.19 billion. However, the group was confident annual earnings would not fall below the previous year's level despite adverse trading conditions. In the 12 months to the end of March attributable profits rose 27.4 per cent to £386 million.

Delta in £27m disposal

DELTA, the engineering and electrical group, yesterday announced the £27 million sale of its materials business to Cerro Metal Products, part of the Marmon group of the US. The disposal comprises four companies based in the UK with 1,080 employees. In 1997 the business earned operating profits of £3.9 million on sales of £66.4 million. Delta said "the outlook for the trading environment for these businesses remains extremely competitive". Delta is currently reducing its asset base by 38 per cent. Delta shares fell 2p to 127½p.

Sedgemoor slips back

SEDGEMOOR, the electronic component distribution company, announced a drop in profits and sales due to "particularly harsh" market conditions. Pre-tax profits fell to £4.2 million from £7.2 million for the six months to September 30, on turnover on continuing operations down from £34.1 million to £30.4 million. Earnings per share were 1.7p (3.2p) but the dividend was increased from 0.5p to 0.6p per share. Tim Sallitt, chairman, is retiring and will be replaced by David Tucker, who is currently a director of Wolseley and Rexam.

Diploma dividend held

DIPLOMA, the industrial distribution group, is maintaining a total dividend of 14.5p a share even after suffering a fall in pre-tax profits to £13 million from £21.6 million in the year to the end of September. The profits fall was despite an increase in sales to £292.9 million from £257.5 million. Earnings fell to 11.1p a share from 24.9p. The final dividend is 10p a share. The shares fell 7p to 156p yesterday. Christopher Thomas, chairman, said the company had endured "a demanding year with difficult market conditions".

Brockhampton ahead

BROCKHAMPTON HOLDINGS, which trades as Portsmouth Water and supplies water to homes in Hampshire and West Sussex, reported pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 of £4.28 million, up from £4.18 million last time. Turnover for the period was little changed at £14.13 million (£14.10 million), despite a 2.2 per cent uplift in water charges. This was because of lower industrial demand and a reduced number of connections, the company said. Earnings per share were 6.5p (6.3p) and the interim dividend is 1.7p (1.6p).

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.70	2.52	Japan Yen	217.92	200.39
Austria Sch	20.91	19.25	Malta	0.667	0.608
Belgium Fr	61.56	56.60	Netherlds Gld	3.382	3.087
Canada $	2.656	2.468	New Zealand $	3.26	3.03
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8795	0.8080	Norway Kr	13.07	12.13
Denmark Kr	11.35	10.46	Portugal Esc	303.08	281.06
Egypt	5.86	5.25	S Africa Rd	10.10	9.14
Finland Mkk	9.15	8.40	Spain Pta	252.25	233.46
France Fr	9.96	9.18	Sweden Kr	14.32	13.22
Germany Dm	2.993	2.751	Switzerland Fr	2.494	2.276
Greece Dr	501	462	Turkey Lm	516360	482039
Hong Kong $	13.68	12.48	USA $	1.767	1.624
Iceland	129	109			
Indonesia	15691	10691			
Ireland Pt	1.1925	1.1035			
Israel Shk	7.24	6.58			
Italy Lira	2976	2739			

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

ICI sells power station to Enron

BY CARL MORTISHED

ICI has agreed to sell a power station and utilities business at its Teesside chemical plant to Enron for £300 million, reviving hopes that ICI's disposal programme is back on track.

The disposal programme had recently suffered setbacks with the Crosfield sale scuppered by US competition authorities. The company needs to sell remaining businesses totalling some £1.5 billion in sales, a large component of which is its ethylene cracker, or catalyst plant, also located on the Wilton site.

BP owns 20 per cent of ICI's cracker and is known to be interested as it still has a requirement for more ethylene. Talks fell apart after the two companies reached a deadlock over price but Mike Buzzacott of BP Chemicals reckons a deal is still on the table.

The Wilton power station, built 50 years ago, mainly supplies steam to chemical customers on Teesside. Profits from the plant and utilities were £35 million last year and ICI said it would book a post-tax profit of £120 million on completion.

Enron said that the Wilton power plant and utilities complemented its own Teesside Power Station, built some six years ago. Enron's 1,875 megawatt plant is the largest gas-fired station in the world, dwarfing the 155-megawatt Wilton plant.

BA's CityFlyer Express buyout reaps venture capital rewards

BY ADAM JONES

BRITISH AIRWAYS is buying CityFlyer Express, one of its franchisees, for £75 million, leading to a windfall for venture capitalists and managers.

The deal has also prompted a new row between BA and Virgin Atlantic, which claimed yesterday that it was not given a fair chance to bid for the airline itself.

CityFlyer is the second-biggest user of Gatwick Airport — after BA — running services to several European cities, including Amsterdam, Newcastle, Dublin and Zurich. Its staff wear BA uniforms and the planes are decorated with the full BA livery.

In the last financial year, it made a pre-tax profit of £6.4 million on sales of £89.4 million. CityFlyer is 40 per cent owned by staff, including Robert Wright, the co-founder, and Brad Burgess, the managing director. The other 60 per cent is owned by a consortium of venture capitalists led by 3i and including Mercury Asset Management, Gresham Trust and Friends Ivory & Sime.

They are celebrating massive increases in their capital. It is understood that Mercury, for instance, has turned an investment of about £300,000 into nearly £10 million.

BA said the deal did not mean that it was abandoning its franchise system, the expansion of which had led some observers to suggest — to the irritation of Bob Ayling, the chief executive — that it was seeking to become a "virtual airline", contracting out much of the actual flying and concentrating on marketing and sales.

Mr Ayling said: "No job losses will result from the purchase and neither does it signal a change in our franchise strategy of working with airlines to spread our brand."

Richard Branson said Virgin Atlantic had been approached by HSBC, the CityFlyer adviser, in the spring of this year as a possible buyer for CityFlyer. He said he was never supplied with a price despite requests and claimed BA might have had a secretive pre-emption right.

BA and CityFlyer denied this yesterday but Mr Branson said he would pursue the matter with the Office of Fair Trading.

One source close to the discussions with Virgin claimed, however, that Virgin had been asked to make an offer, setting its own price, but refused.



Brad Burgess, CityFlyer Express managing director, and Angela Lane, of 3i, celebrating the £75 million deal yesterday

IMF social policy tops G7 agenda

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Group of Seven industrialised nations is actively discussing the idea of merging the interim and development committees of the International Monetary Fund. Such a merger would, for the first time, force the IMF to take account of social and structural policies alongside financial and economic issues.

Discussions about a merger are running in parallel to a French proposal, aired at the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington in October, that the interim committee should be strengthened and given executive and voting powers.

However, there is a growing view among G7 officials and economic development professionals that social policy has to be integrated into the mainstream work of the IMF and that, far from achieving this, a strengthened interim committee would further downgrade social policy and the work of the development committee.

It is believed the World Bank, which is not represented on the interim committee, supports a merger that would, for the first time, give it an active voice at the top table of policymaking within the IMF.

Social policy has been given far more emphasis than ever before since the Asian crisis erupted more than a year ago. In the G7 statement of October 30, it agreed to a new World Bank emergency facility to provide extra concessional funding to the most vulnerable social groups, saying that more attention should be given to the poor in times of crisis.

It remains the case, however, that IMF adjustment plans often mean cuts to social programmes. The hope of those who support a merger between the interim and development committees is that social spending could be ring-fenced.

German's withdrawal hits Scotia

BY PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Scotia Holdings fell 28½p to 89p, close to a record low, yesterday when Boehringer Ingelheim terminated its agreement to develop Foscan, the cancer drug that is the British company's most important product.

The German pharmaceutical company was one of two development partners that last year agreed to pay Scotia up to $39 million (£23 million) for the rights to Foscan, which is activated by laser beam. This was regarded as an important validation of the drug.

Boehringer Ingelheim said it was dropping Foscan because of the strength of its own cancer pipeline. It said it still believed Foscan was "an interesting and valuable product". Scotia said it remained optimistic about Foscan. It will not have to return any of the $21 million it has received.

UK productivity data 'flawed'

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN'S efforts to address Britain's apparently poor productivity record are likely to be futile because the problem has been greatly overstated, a new report claims.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies argues that the figures on which the Chancellor has based his productivity campaign are flawed and that in reality there is little productivity gap between the UK and its main competitors.

Mr Brown stated in the pre-Budget report earlier this month that UK productivity lags France and Germany by 20 per cent and the US by 40 per cent.

However, Rachel Griffith and Helen Simpson, the authors of *Productivity and the Role of Government*, argue that the Chancellor has failed to adjust his figures to take into account longer working hours in the US and the greater proportion of out-dated plant machinery used by British industry.

If workers' hours are included in the calculation, the productivity gap with the US is halved. The gap almost entirely disappears if the data is adjusted for the state of factory machinery.

As a result, the report argues that Britain's fundamental problem is one of historically low levels of investment. It argues that policies outlined by Mr Brown to tackle this problem — including R&D tax credits, increased capital allowances for small firms and a change to the tax treatment of venture capital investments — will help tackle some of the problems.

However, the IFS cautions that the benefits are likely to be limited because small firms do not account for a large overall share of investment.

Commentary, page 31

Perpetual warning on volatility

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

PERPETUAL, the fund management group, achieved a 22.2 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £72.8 million in the year to September 30 but gave warning that earnings growth was at the mercy of volatile stock markets.

An otherwise favourable financial year ended badly as world stock markets collapsed, wiping £1.8 billion off Perpetual's funds under management, more than twice the amount it took from new investors.

Although assets under the company's control have since recovered to £9.8 billion, this is £600 million less than Perpetual managed in March.

Martyn Arbib, chairman, said the progress of the stock market and the Government's launch of individual savings accounts (Isas) — which will replace Peps and Tessas from next April — were the "two challenging issues" facing the company in the coming year.

If markets remained resilient the final sales of Peps would be "buoyant" he said. Thereafter, the complexity of Isas and their lower investment levels would result in "muted" sales for the second half of the year. However, Mr Arbib said this would be compensated for by Perpetual's entry into the personal pensions market in the new year.

Perpetual is paying a final dividend of 38p, bringing the total for the year to 75p, up from 62p in 1997.

Tempus, page 32

Cashflow bond raises £210m for RoadChef

ROADCHEF, the motorway service station group in which Nikko, the finance house, took a 45 per cent stake earlier this year, has raised £210 million from investors with a bond issue using cashflow as security (Richard Miles writes).

RoadChef was bought for £175 million by a consortium of Nikko's principal finance unit. RoadChef management and a fund advised by Cabot Square Capital. RoadChef subsequently absorbed Blue Boar and Take A Break, two smaller service station companies, in an £80 million deal.

Tim Ingram Hill, RoadChef chairman, said the bond will fund expansion and refinance initial acquisition debt.

IN Business Life TOMORROW

Ian Livingstone, chairman of Eidos, opens up his office in Work Station plus Who really runs Britain's companies



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is for schools

... will today sign the ... Finance Initiative ... £125 million will ... Moray access ... launched today ... will bring e-mail ... schoolchild ... terminals, ... cameras.

is court ruling

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£27m disposal

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mption ahead

RIST RATES

ISH AIRWAYS

Non-exec stress holds key at M&S

For almost three weeks the non-executive directors of Marks & Spencer have been coping with a crisis. Brian Baldock and Dame Stella Rimington, in particular, have been working extraordinarily long hours trying to sort out the unseemly debacle over who should run the company. While this crucial issue for the future of the company was being decided, various of their boardroom colleagues were dashing round the world on behalf of other organisations. Conference calls aid communication but the unusual, and some might argue unnecessary, task of finding a chief executive in less than 20 days required the time-and-a-half involvement of those who were leading the hunt.

Such crises are, of course, best avoided but in the real world leading companies will increasingly be caught by surprise by events. That is when the executives call upon their non-executive colleagues and when the latter really begin to earn their fees, and more.

If non-executive directors are to be valuable to a business, then they need to be able to do very much more than turn up for monthly meetings, although even dealing with the paperwork for those can be a time-consuming business. This raises the question of what commitment should be expected from a non-executive director, and what remuneration in return.

Brian Baldock was paid £50,000 by M&S last year and Dame Stella, a former head of MI5, a meagre £34,000. At that level of remuneration, it is not, perhaps, surprising that the majority of non-executives feel that they need to assemble a portfolio of directorships to sustain themselves.

These people may be brilliant minds, able to switch from one company to another, one industry to another, without any confusion or time conflicts. The legendary Lord Marshall, for instance, was this week merging Siebe with BTR without any hint of being preoccupied by the crowded agenda that he juggles.

But if companies are to get the best from such talents, they may want rather more time than some multi-directorship individuals can devote to them.

At Marks & Spencer, the succession has been settled — up to a point. A new chairman — a high-powered outsider, even if not Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth — will have to be found to succeed Sir Richard Greenbury. In the meantime, the challenge for the directors will be to ensure that Peter Salsbury is allowed to do the job he has been appointed to with support, but not dictatorship, from the chairman. It could be a time-consuming challenge.

Industry needs to give deep consideration to the evolving role of non-executives, who are, in any case, mis-named. They may be part-time, but directors could hardly be more executive than Mr Baldock, Dame Stella and their colleagues have been forced to be in recent days. A new job description, and the money to make it worthwhile, could ensure that boards make a more positive contribution. Then some crises might even be avoided.

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Exxon follows the path of Saddam

Big oil has been cutting costs for most of the 1990s to accommodate oil prices that refused to match the optimistic expectations on which boards had based their budgets. Eventually it ran out of cuts and still the oil price fell. Merging with rivals has become the only way to find new costs to cut and to deliver increasing returns that are just not available from normal trading.

BP broke ranks when it agreed a $50 billion takeover of Amoco in the spring, creating the world's biggest industrial merger. Not for long. Now Mobil seems likely to become Exxon's $60 billion Thanksgiving turkey, reuniting America's two biggest oil companies 87 years after the US anti-trust authorities tore them apart.

Amazingly, reconstituting the guts of the old Standard Oil would still make it only the third most valuable company on Wall Street. Once the two-day hiatus of Thanksgiving is past, both stocks can be expected to spurt, but "Exoil" is still likely to lag a few dozen billion behind US General Electric and Microsoft, the trust busters' latest target.

The first truly global industry, the model for all future multinationals and intercontinental leviathans, is no longer top dog. Information technology and pharmaceuticals, which are less exposed to economic cycles, have rushed past. Finance is on the march.

Such new realities help to explain how shares of the biggest corporations can keep rising, divorced from wavering and unpropitious economic prospects. In the era of shareholder value, economic reality is no excuse for the falling profits that Exxon and Mobil, along with other oil companies, will make this year and are likely to show next.

Losers must come up with something. Consolidation to cut competition aims to cut $2 billion a year from BP/Amoco's combined costs. "Exoil" might cut three times that, after an even bigger one-off massacre of jobs.

Regulators no longer seem to worry so much about mergers to consolidate troubled industries. That even applies to oil, whose competitive credentials always excite deep suspicions.

Some assets would just have to be sold, in this case partly to BP. And if this deal founders, surely Mobil will merge with Chevron, or buy Atlantic Richfield, and Exxon will find another partner.

Wall Street's get-out is not, however, available to the many developing countries that rely on oil, which have seen its price fall to a quarter-century low in real terms this week, and no longer have enough power to fix the price.

There might be a case for consolidation there, too, allowing bigger players to cut excess output. But when Saddam Hussein tried that on Kuwait, the authorities took a somewhat different line.

Brown has his work cut out

Productivity always seemed an odd issue for Gordon Brown to make the core theme of the next Budget. The term itself is enough to send most of the population to sleep, while there is little agreement among the economics profession about how productivity can be effectively measured. It is the kind of issue normally best left to learned papers and earnest expert debate.

None of this has deterred the Chancellor from using productivity as a stick to prod Britain's management. Mr Brown has indicated that the Treasury will do what it can to improve Britain's record but much of the impetus must come from industry itself. Yet this approach is littered with pitfalls, not least that it is unclear the productivity record of British industry is nearly as dismal as the Chancellor likes to claim.

Yesterday it was the turn of the respected Institute for Fiscal Studies to join the fray, pointing out that the data the Chancellor likes to wheel out is a little on the crude side. If working hours and the poor state of Britain's physical capital is taken into account, there does not appear to be much of a productivity gap, the IFS claims. The problem is one of underinvestment rather than productivity and here the Government is probably more at fault than the private sector. The IFS concludes, in rather pessimistic fashion, that it will take at least a generation to turn Britain's investment performance around. Even by the Chancellor's own high productivity standards, he will have his work cut out solving this one by March.

Marley apparition

MARLEY has spent the best part of a decade out on the tiles without attracting a partner. Nor was there, it seems, any prospect. In the end, frustrated value hunter Phillips & Drew, still stuck with 15 per cent of Marley shares and badly needing performance, has lost its patience and sponsored what amounts to a management buy-in. An all-share offer would leave Marley holders with 94 per cent of the combined group, but P&D is pledged to the cheeky outsiders' break-up plan if no normal bidder emerges. Shareholders should not have to resort to quite such desperate measures.

Hostile bid rejected by Marley

BY KIMBERLY MCDONALD

MARLEY, the building materials group, yesterday rejected a £283 million hostile bid from John Mansfield, the timber merchant, calling the all-share offer unacceptable.

Mansfield, which is backed by Bryan Myerson and Julian Treger's UK Active Value fund, said it was offering 15 new shares in its company for every Marley share held. It said it would break up Marley by ousting its management team and selling its concrete and clay business.

The bid values Marley shares at 97½p. They leapt 13p to close at 98½p yesterday, indicating that the City believes that a higher offer for the group will materialise.

Marley's single largest shareholder is Phillips & Drew Fund Management, with 14.9 per cent. It is irrevocably committed to accept the offer, and in an unusual move, agreed to underwrite Mansfield's bid costs in the event that a higher offer emerges.

UK Active Value has a history of shareholder activism which has shaken up companies as diverse as Signet, Greycoat and Kenwood. It is chaired by Stuart Wallis, who made his reputation turning around Fisons, the pharmaceutical group, and worked with UKAV on shaking up Scholl, the footwear and personal products group.

Mansfield said yesterday that Marley's management had comprehensively failed its shareholders. "Marley's recently announced strategic review offers no realistic prospect for the enhancement of Marley's shareholder value," it added.

Analysts said the company has acquired various disparate business in different geographic areas and remains plagued by static sales and a languishing stock price.

The last straw came last month, when Marley further infuriated its institutional shareholders by allowing its chief executive and other senior employees to replace worthless options under the company's share-save scheme with new, lower-priced options that were likely to yield a handsome profit.

Weather restricts Fuller's

BY DOMINIC WALSH

POOR summer weather and a big jump in development costs restricted half-year performance at Fuller's, the London brewer and pub operator.

The group nevertheless lifted pre-tax profits by 8 per cent to £6.53 million in the half year to September 26. Earnings per share reached 17.89p (16.73p) and the interim dividend per "A" share is 6 per cent higher at 3.82p.

Fuller's lifted capital expenditure from £7.2 million to £12.6 million, much of the focus being on Fine Line, its new bar concept. Four are already up and running and four further sites are in the pipeline. The recently acquired The Fence in Central London is also to be rolled out as a retail brand.

The difficult summer restricted like-for-like sales growth at its managed inns and hotels division to just 1 per cent. The brewing division lifted own-beer sales by 8 per cent in a declining ale market, although like-for-like volumes in its tenanted estate were 3 per cent down.

New pattern, page 33

Two Laura Ashley factories go

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LAURA ASHLEY, the troubled clothing retailer, is set to make about 170 staff redundant after closing two of its factories. The job losses will cost the company £2 million.

An eleven-month search by the retailer has failed to find a buyer for its five factories. The two that are now set to close are at Oswestry, Shropshire, and at Helmond, in The Netherlands. Oswestry employs 73 staff while Helmond has 71. The company is cutting a further 28 jobs at its factory at Carno, in Mid Wales.

Stephen Cox, company secretary, said that about 20 more jobs are being created at Gresford, another of its Welsh factories, to take over some of the work done at the factories that are closing. Gresford currently employs 145 people, while Carno now has 203 and Texplan, the company's third Welsh factory, employs 212.

Redundancy and closure costs will come out of £9 million set aside last year.

Bristol United Press identifies bid targets

BRISTOL United Press, the regional newspaper group, has identified a number of possible targets for acquisitions (Raymond Snoddy writes).

The group is encouraged in the search by the performance of Wessex Newspapers, its most recent acquisition, which made an operating profit of £2.2 million in its second six months in group ownership.

The Wessex result, achieved despite increased investment in editorial content, helped to boost Bristol's pre-tax profits to a record £11.4 million in the six months to September 30. This compared with £6.9 million last time and was after a £2.8 million exceptional profit from selling 52 newsagents.

Earnings per share before exceptionals rose from 16.06p to 21.27p. The interim dividend is 6.75p, up 12.5 per cent.

None of us is as good as all of us.



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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Eager insurers drool as GRE parades its wares

JUST like a Miss World contestant, **Guardian Royal Exchange** has no shortage of admirers. But instead of parading on the beaches of the Seychelles, John Robins, chief executive of GRE, has been strutting his stuff up and down the paved streets of the City.

The shares shaded 3p to 338p yesterday, but speculators say the price could be nearer 400p once the group has chosen from the list of admirers eagerly making their presence known.

They are said to include the French insurers AXA and Germany's Allianz as well as our own **Norwich Union**, 1p lighter at 440p, according to the influential fortnightly magazine *Assuranti*.

Only last week, Mr Robins confirmed market speculation that the group was looking for a suitable partner. Brokers say GRE knows it is just not big enough to cut much of a figure in the growing world market.

Meanwhile, **Countrywide Assurance**, where GRE has a 16 per cent stake, firmed 2½p to 114½p, as a large line of stock went through. A total of 22.61 million shares, just over 6 per cent, were sold at 110p before being sold on at 111p. Was GRE the seller? A total of 45.91 million shares had changed hands by the close.

The rest of the equity market rebounded from two days of losses despite the absence of any lead from Wall Street. Reports overnight that Exxon and Mobil plan to merge rekindled speculative support and got share prices in London off to a flying start.

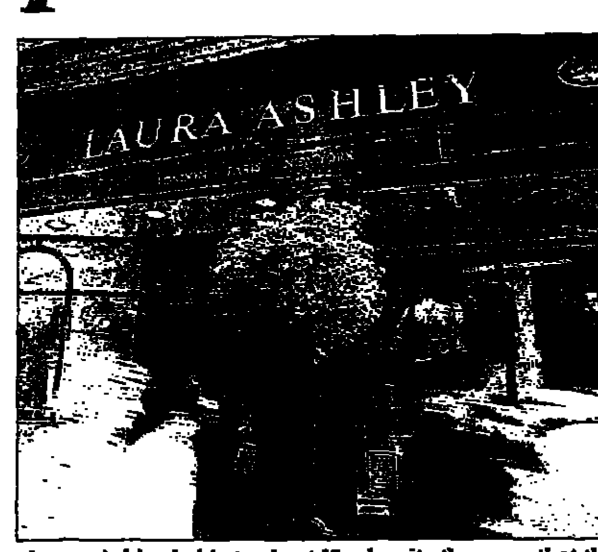
Continuing hopes of an imminent cut in interest rates and another spate of takeover news also boosted sentiment.

The FTSE 100 index showed signs of running out of steam towards the close, but still finished 72.6 points up at 5,827.9, while the FTSE 250 index rose 14.5 to 4,940.9. Total turnover reached 849 million shares.

SmithKline Beecham advanced 7p to 742p despite Schroders' broking arm reducing its recommendation from "add" to "reduce".

EMI continued to lose ground in the wake of this week's profits setback losing 9p to 350p. Word is that BT Alex Brown, the broker, is telling clients to "sell" and has set a target price of 300p.

Laura Ashley is one of the market's worst performers this year. Even so, it held steady at 15p despite more bearish news that involved the closure of two manufacturing outlets. The shares have slumped from 161p last year.



Laura Ashley held steady at 15p despite the news that the company is going to close two of its manufacturing outlets

Keep an eye on **Carlisle Holdings**, the services group headed by Michael Ashcroft of ADT fame. The price rose 1p to 18½p as almost 3 million shares were traded. He has ploughed some £90 million into the service company and is on the lookout for further suitable acquisitions.

Further contraction among the advertising agencies is a possibility if the outcome of talks between **Abbott Mead Vickers**, 48½p dearer at 408½p, and its rival Omnicon come to fruition.

Talk of a bid for **Marley** has run almost as long as the Mousetrap. Now the final curtain may come down after a £283 million offer from Mansfield. Marley will resist the move. However, the group's biggest shareholder PDFM, with a 14.9 per cent stake, has accepted the terms.

News of a bid approach hoisted **BCH Group** 49p to 218½p.

Opec's failure to agree production cuts left the price of Brent crude hovering just below $11 a barrel. Losses were seen in **Enterprise Oil**, 14p to 335p, **British Borneo**, 10p to 1589p, **Ranger Oil**, 22½p to 322½p, **Hardy Oil**, 9p to 138½p, and **XCL**, 10p to 180p.

Kwik Fit hardened 4½p to 550½p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, took an upbeat view of the shares.

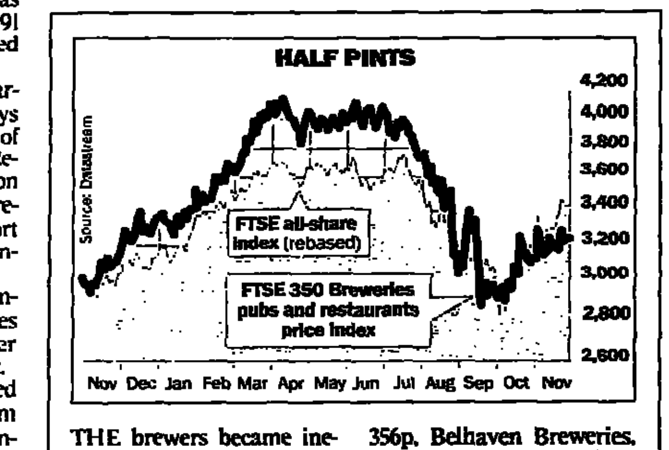
Scotia Holdings was the worst performer in the market, falling 28½p to 89p after its German partner Boehringer Ingelheim pulled out of the programme to develop Foscan, the neck-and-head cancer treatment. **Ilion Group** fell 10½p to 62p, on the back of a profits warning. A profits warning also took a heavy toll on **Devro**, down 43½p to 191½p. It expects pre-tax profits to come in at £40 million against £53 million last time.

Share purchases by one director were responsible for a rise of 15½p to 160p in **Macdonald Hotels**. Donald Macdonald, chief executive, has bought 10,000 shares at 132p, taking his holding to 5.23 million, or 8.9 per cent.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices continued to build up a head of steam, with rises stretching to £2 in places among longer-dated issues. Another weak industrial trends survey from the CBI and some upbeat comments from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, paved the way for the latest surge. Mr George told MPs that interest rates would be cut aggressively if the inflation target required it. He also admitted that the latest trade deficit had increased the pressure for a cut in rates.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt rose 63p to £116.73 as 23,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent surged £2 to £147.10, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 23p better at £106.52.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street was closed for Thanksgiving.



THE brewers became inebriated with news of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries' bid for Marston Thompson & Evershed, up 38p at 284½p. The terms value the Pedigree bitter group at £262 million and come ahead of a shareholders' meeting to discuss the disposal of the bulk of the group's tenanted pub chain.

Wolverhampton & Dudley made known its intentions a few weeks ago, but the move still excited the other brewers. There were gains for Greenalls, 14½p to 356p, Belhaven Breweries, 6½p to 187½p, Scottish & Newcastle, 18p to 744p, and Whitbread, 17p to 807p. Fuller Smith & Turner firmed 7½p to 477½p after profits news, while both Bass, up 58p at 848½p, and Greene King, 14½p dearer at 535p, advanced ahead of results next week.

One brewing analyst said: "Consolidation is the only real option for many of the less robust regional players if they are going to have any chance of competing against the big boys."

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	Closed
S&P Composite	...
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	15207.77 (+134.30)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10778.92 (+57.93)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	1134.69 (+19.94)
Sydney:	
AO	2772.0 (+22.6)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5061.63 (+107.26)
Singapore:	
Straits	1390.70 (+0.19)
Brussels:	
BEL20	3294.20 (+56.09)
Paris:	
CAC-40	3915.53 (+65.69)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1362.30 (+25.60)
London:	
FT 30	3504.9 (+34.8)
FTSE 100	5827.9 (+72.6)
FTSE 250	4940.9 (+14.5)
FTSE 350	2758.5 (+30.1)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2712.44 (+52.11)
FTSE All-Share	2660.89 (+27.98)
FTSE Non Financials	2698.72 (+31.99)
FTSE Fixed Interest	152.34 (+0.29)
FTSE Govt Secs	113.55 (+0.97)
Bargains	61614
SEAQ Volume	863.7m
US$	1.6612 (-0.0006)
German Mark	2.8297 (-0.0027)
Exchange Index	101.6 (-0.1)
Bank on England offical close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4410
£:SDR	1.1996
RPI	164.5 Oct (3.1%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX	161.9 Oct (2.5%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Charnol	95	+ 2
Collective Assets Trust	117	
First Active	297½	− 1
Five Arr Chile USD065	110½	+ ¼
Five Arr Uts Cv Ln 2040	116½	+ ½
Five Arrows Warrants	15	
Garban	233½	+ 6
Guinness Flt Grd I&G	103	
Guinness Flt Grd I&G Inc	108	...
Guinness Flt Grd Zero Dv Pf	107	
Honeycombe Leisure	64½	− ½
INVESCO Rec Zero Div Pt	104¼	...
INVESCO Recovery Tst	102¾	...
MSW Technology	83½	...
Marley B	11	...
Natl Bldg Mtls Cv Pf	105	...
Natural Building Mtls	5¼	...
Offshore Tool & Energy	27½	...
Old Monk Company	54	...
Piccadilly Growth Ts	92½	+ 2
REXAM B (100)	94	− 1
Singer & Frd AIM VCT	100	...
Thistle Hotels Pfl	15	...
Xenova Warrants	13½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Albemarle Prop Invs n/p (3)	25	-½
Bloomsbury Pubg n/p (145)	12½	+ 5½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Mrston Thmp	287½	+ 41	+ 16.6
Abbott Mead	408½	+ 48½	+ 13.4
Porvair	161	+ 16	+ 11.0
3i	590	+ 57	+ 10.6
Oriflame Intl	179½	+ 17	+ 10.4
Zergo	240	+ 22½	+ 10.3
Bass	850	+ 60	+ 7.5
AMVESCAP	484	+ 24	+ 5.2
Kewill Sys	1135	+ 55	+ 5.0
BT	870	+ 42	+ 5.0
Schroders N/V	1050	+ 48	+ 4.7
MMT Comp	992½	+ 42½	+ 4.4
Whitbread	825	+ 35	+ 4.4
Greenalls Grp	356½	+ 15	+ 4.3

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Scotia	89	− 28½	− 24.2
Devro	191½	− 43½	− 18.5
BPB	217	− 42	− 16.2
West Hlthcare	245	− 27½	− 10.0
Jones Shipman	8	− ½	− 5.8

TEMPUS

Investing In Investors

THERE is much more to 3i than any old run of the mill investment trust. Increased consciousness of this, along with relief that the net asset value dilution was less marked than some feared, helped 3i shares to the top of the FTSE 100 best performers chart for yesterday.

What makes 3i different? As well as managing its own assets, it is also winning mandates from outside investment institutions to manage their allocations of venture and development capital. This earns 3i fees, but it also means that, if it and the outside money invest in parallel, 3i's risk can be spread without handing opportunities to rivals.

3i is also differentiated from most investment trusts through expertise. Since just after the Second World War the formerly monikered Investors In Industry has been helping and profiting from small private companies. Its network of offices puts it nearer investment opportunites and its willingness to get involved in much smaller deals than many of the *arriviste* private equity funds also means it runs fewer risks of overpaying. Compared with most smaller company and venture capital investment trusts 3i is comfortingly large.

Shares of 3i are valued primarily with reference to net asset value. The market is generous enough to price the shares at a premium to NAV, where conventional trusts trade at substantial discounts. But not only is 3i much more of a business than simply an investor, its impressive investment record in a torrid environment for small companies means it could easily be worth much more.

It may take time for the true value of 3i to be appreciated. Ditto for small and unquoted companies. For the patient, it is a buy.

BPB

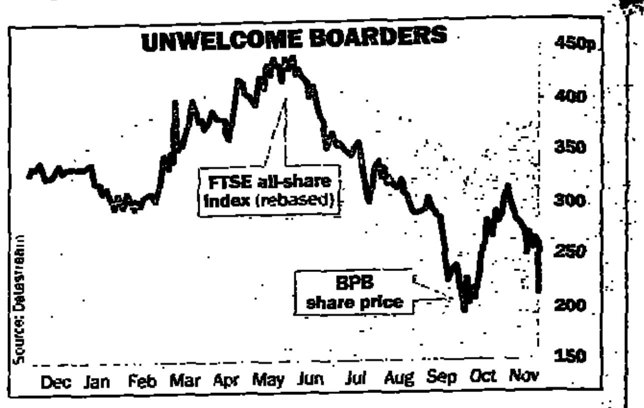
A MERE 1 per cent fall in the price of plasterboard can wipe £10 million off BPB's annual profits. This explains why the City reacted so nervously to news that BPB's offices had been raided by European Commission officials, in what is believed to be an investigation into anti-competitive behaviour.

It was clear from yesterday's share price movement that many believe BPB's prices will be forced down as a result of this inquiry. Together with Germany's Knauf and France's Lafarge the three are thought to control 95 per cent of the European plasterboard market and each could be fined up to 10 per cent of sales.

In share price terms the worst is probably behind BPB but the EU's investigation will hang heavily over the stock until it is completed. And this could take some time. A similar inquiry into the cement industry lasted three years.

Meanwhile, BPB's results were pretty much as expected. Although volume growth is slowing, the market penetration of plasterboard continues to advance. Growth is likely even in hard times and many builders in developing countries have yet to substitute traditional wet plaster for more versatile plasterboard.

Revised end-of-year earnings per share forecasts put BPB shares on a forward p/e multiple of about 9.4. With risk from the EU built in, this is a reasonable price. But even with share buybacks still on the cards, short-term growth is unlikely.



Yorkshire Water

YORKSHIRE WATER is desperately trying to shake off the shackles clamped upon it by Ofwat, the water regulator. But there are doubts over whether it can diversify quickly enough to keep the interest of shareholders who are used to bumper dividend growth rather than the belt-tightening that appears to be around the corner.

Yorkshire's dividend has been growing by 6 to 8 per cent above inflation. That growth rate is certain to be hauled back after 2000, when Yorkshire faces an enforced 15 to 20 per cent cut in average household water bills.

The utility may be able to persuade Ofwat to blunt its axe and cut bills by a smaller amount before the 2000 to 2005 pricing system is finalised next year. But this is not worth betting on, and whatever the outcome, it will not be easy for Yorkshire.

To offset the turmoil in its core business, Yorkshire has been building its non-regulated activities. But the challenge of building up £35 to £40 million of unregulated profits a year by 2005 is a tall one. Operating profits from unregulated activities were just £5.2 million in the first half. At best, a hold.

Perpetual

PERPETUAL shares have fallen a long way since the heady days of summer but its market value is still a handsome 9 per cent of funds under management.

The health of this unit trust and Pep manager depends on the condition of the stock markets and the enthusiasm for equity investment among it customers, who are predominantly retail clients. If equity markets do well, funds under management go up and fees from unit holders roll in. If markets rise, retail enthusiasm for equity investment also improves.

This is a two-way street and the summer slump in markets acted as a timely reminder of the fact. But on top of the continuing danger that bear market conditions will return, Perpetual is on the sharp end of a political risk, too. Customer confusion about Isas — the Government's planned replacement for Peps and Tessas — coupled with the fact that the tax breaks are not as large, will make Perpetual's life more difficult. Perpetual, an established hot performer, has also tripped up recently in investment management.

The planned expansion into personal pensions will help. Moreover, the strength of the brand and an impeccable reputation for service mean Perpetual is well placed to reap rewards from the growing appetite for savings and financial services. A bid cannot be discounted, either. The shares are expensive, but should be held.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE — COCOA; ROBUSTA COFFEE; WHITE SUGAR (FOB); MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION — [illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) — CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	10.65	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Jan)	10.95	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Feb)	11.20	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	...	closed
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	...	...

PRODUCTS ($/MT) — Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	121 (-1)	123 (-1)
Gasoil EEC	97 (-3)	100 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	59 (n/c)	61 (n/c)
Naphtha	125 (-2)	130 (-2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd) — GAS OIL; BRENT (6.00pm) — [illegible]

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES — LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t); LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

	Wheat		Barley
Jan	77.80	Jan	79.00
Mar	79.70	Mar	81.00
May	81.70	May	82.00
Jul	87.65	Sep	79.75
Sep	86.40	Nov	81.75
	Volume: 483		Volume: 147

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	250.50
Apr	306.00	305.50
May	unq	315.50
		Volume: 233

RUBBER (No 1 RSS CIF p/kg); LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt); LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff — [illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 98	116.15	116.92	116.09	116.73	63199
Previous open interest 125118	Mar 99	116.33	117.11	116.27	116.91	45340
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 98	113.97	114.17	113.97	114.06	572
Previous open interest 3099	Mar 99				114.42	0
Five Year Gilt	Dec 98	108.10	108.11	108.10	108.16	33
Previous open interest 1584	Mar 99	108.31	108.31	108.31	108.36	9
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Dec 98	111.98	112.29	111.98	112.09	8077
Previous open interest 62563	Mar 99	112.12	112.23	112.11	112.17	461
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 98	136.81	136.97	136.77	136.80	4136
	Mar 99	135.83	136.01	135.83	135.85	2172
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 98	93.250	93.270	93.240	93.260	17519
	Mar 99	93.840	93.920	93.840	93.910	24759
Previous open interest 1145796	Jun 99	94.170	94.240	94.170	94.230	16271
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 98	96.430	96.450	96.425	96.440	41825
Previous open interest 2449005	Mar 99	96.715	96.745	96.700	96.735	52053
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 98	96.360	96.410	96.380	96.410	5703
Previous open interest 670637	Mar 99	96.720	96.730	96.700	96.730	5353
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 98	98.190	98.270	98.190	98.220	13749
Previous open interest 163553	Mar 99	98.250	98.310	98.240	98.270	7131
Three Mth Euro	Dec 98	96.360	96.330	96.375	96.385	126
Previous open interest 20740	Mar 99	96.710	96.720	96.710	96.715	75
FTSE 100	Dec 98	5515.0	5587.0	5501.0	5594.0	11056
Previous open interest 225567	Mar 99	5571.0	5626.0	5568.0	5735.0	1584

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance House 7¾
Discount Market Loans: Overnight high: 7¾ Low 6 Week fixed: 6¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6¼; 3 mth 6¼ Sell: 2 mth 6¼; 3 mth 6¼

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6¾ close 7¾					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n.a	6	6¾	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.97	n.a	4.19	5.09	5.08
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: $296.10-296.60 **Close:** $296.40-296.80 **High:** $296.70-296.70 **Low:** $296.10-296.60 **AM:** $296.75 **PM:** $296.40
Krugerrand: $297.00-300.00 (£178.75-180.75)
Platinum: $350.00 (£210.90) **Silver:** $4.935 (£2.965) **Palladium:** $279.00 (£168.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for November 26	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Amsterdam	3.1767-3.1906	3.1793-3.1924	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	58.116-58.460	58.330-58.438	[illegible]	[illegible]
Copenhagen	10.712-10.771	10.752-10.767	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.1316-1.1411	1.1327-1.1403	[illegible]	[illegible]
Frankfurt	2.8174-2.8324	2.8282-2.8314	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	[illegible]	240.57-240.79	[illegible]	[illegible]
Milan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Montreal	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
New York	1.6542-1.6616	1.6608-1.6616	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oslo	12.421-12.497	12.475-12.484	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	9.4851-9.4580	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	13.494-13.566	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5673-1.5698
Austria	11.9840-11.9890
Belgium (Com)	35.140-35.180
Canada	1.5278-1.5288
Denmark	6.4758-6.4778
France	5.7108-5.7128
Germany	1.7025-1.7035
Hong Kong	7.7428-7.7438
Ireland	1.4556-1.4606
Italy	1685.75-1686.50
Japan	122.20-122.30
Malaysia	3.7997-3.8003
Netherlands	1.9200-1.9210
Norway	7.5045-7.5145
Portugal	174.80-174.90
Singapore	1.6490-1.6505
Spain	144.85-144.90
Sweden	8.1415-8.1515
Switzerland	1.4076-1.4080

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6590-1.6619
Australia dollar	2.6040-2.6068
Bahrain dinar	0.6190-0.6220
Brazil real*	1.9822-1.9852
China yuan	n/a
Cyprus pound	0.8255-0.8445
Finland markka	8.5300-8.6670
Greece drachma	469.00-470.80
Hong Kong dollar	12.8540-12.8610
India rupee	69.68-71.29
Indonesia rupiah	[illegible]
Kuwait dinar KD	[illegible]
Malaysia ringgit	[illegible]
New Zealand dollar	[illegible]
Pakistan rupee	81.00 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	[illegible]
Singapore dollar	[illegible]
S Africa (fin) rand	[illegible]
U A E dirham	[illegible]

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

[illegible]

WALL STREET

[illegible]

THE TIMES

Fabric... into r...

Jason Nissé says evolution will leave Britain with fewer and leaner woollen mills

Acting



"... has gone and he may be some time"

Choice for over-employed frontbenchers

THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS



ALASDAIR MURRAY

The City may no longer offer a guaranteed retirement post for Conservative former ministers, but this has not stopped the current crop of Tory frontbenchers from seeking out part-time business posts to supplement their meagre MPs income. An analysis of the Parliamentary Register of Members' Interests reveals that half the Shadow Cabinet benefit from paid posts, while a number of other Tory frontbenchers have multiple roles.

This extra-curricular activity seem to divide them into two camps — those capitalising on City contacts to take jobs in business and those profiting from the rise of the paid Parliamentary adviser. Many of the City posts represent a continuation of former careers. Sir Norman Fowler, home affairs spokesman, has long been involved with Regional Independent Media Holdings, the newspaper group owning the *Yorkshire Post* and the *Sheffield Star*, and continues as its non-executive chairman. However, his chairmanship of Numark, the pharmacy group, is a more recent affair and could indicate that even Sir Norman does not see his unexpected return to the front bench as more than temporary.

If Sir Norman's outside commitments are an understandable insurance policy for a man reaching the end of his political career, the same cannot be said of Francis Maude, Shadow Chancellor and widely tipped as a future Tory leader. Mr Maude spent five profitable years in the political wilderness, after losing his seat in the 1992 election, working as international privatisation director for Morgan Stanley. He has maintained his contacts with the US investment bank, even if he no longer has a formal role. Mr Maude has also acquired four other City directorships, including a place on the board of Asda, the supermarket company chaired by his friend and colleague Archie Norman.

Although the City still yields some gainful employment for Tory frontbenchers, the real job opportunities appear to lie as paid Parliamentary advisers. The undoubted kings of this trade are John Greenway, home affairs spokesman, and Patrick Nicholls, agriculture spokesman. Mr Greenway enjoys a substantial top-up to his MP's salary from five paid consultancies. Some of these positions reflect his background as an insurance broker, but he has also just finished a contract as Parliamentary adviser to Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television and continues to work on behalf of the ITV association, the Institute of Sales Promotion and the British Promotional Merchandising Association. Mr Nicholls enjoys a hefty private income advising six organisations as diverse as the Clinical Dental Technicians Association and the British Hardware Industry Forum.

Inevitably, such a range of outside employment has left some Tory frontbenchers vulnerable to potential conflicts of interest. Only last week, Francis Maude was accused by a Labour MP of concealing his interest in the Gartmore Shared Equity Trust during debate on the introduction of individual savings accounts (Isas). Mr Maude has vigorously denied this allegation, pointing out that this arm of Gartmore has no interest in Isas, but the dangers of a shadow Treasury team with wide City interests — especially when it has led the assault on Geoffrey Robinson's lapses of memory — is all too clear. David Willetts, education and employment spokesman, has also run into flak over his £25,000, one-day-a-month, consultancy for Monitor, a US firm specialising in workplace issues. Although, again, there was no suggestion that Mr Willetts had breached any guidelines, Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, may have had the Willetts case in mind when he warned Tory frontbenchers that they must take "great care" when taking up consultancies.

Yet the conflict-of-interest issue is not insurmountable, provided frontbenchers adhere to the strict but clear Parliamentary guidelines. Far more pernicious is the perception that too many Tory MPs are only concerned with feathering their own nests rather than reviving the fortunes of their party. Most non-executive roles do not involve a big commitment of time — normally about a day a month — but serial directorships and consultancies must detract from frontbench duties. At the same time, the roles are not extensive enough to suggest that frontbenchers may be gaining some valuable insight into the "real world". The increasing professionalisation of both politics and business has made the old model of frontbench MPs maintaining a foot in both camps no longer tenable. Over-employed frontbenchers need to decide whether they value their personal income or political careers more highly.

☐ The five most highly employed members of the Shadow Cabinet, according to the Parliamentary Register of Members' Interests, of October 30, are:

Francis Maude, Shadow Chancellor: Non-executive director of Asda Group, Benfield Reinsurance, Gartmore Shared Equity Trust and GSET Securities:

Sir Norman Fowler, Home Affairs: chairman of Regional Independent Media Holdings, chairman of Numark, non-executive director Aggregate Industries;

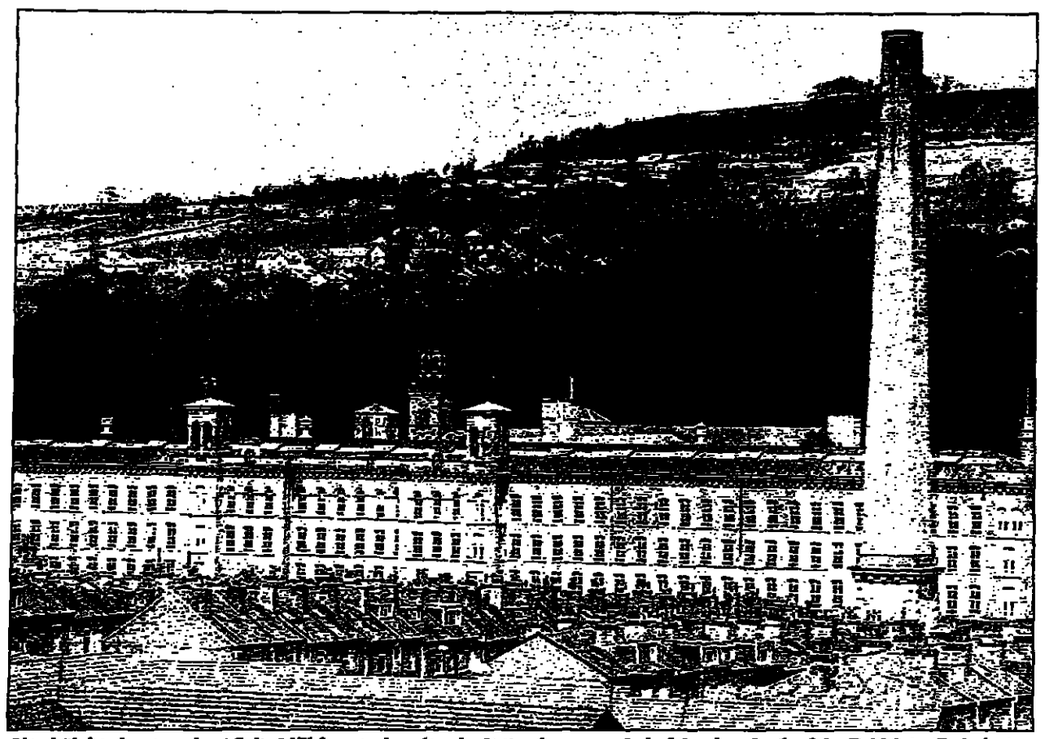
Michael Howard, Foreign Affairs: Non-executive director of IMPAC, David J Instance and Finex:

David Willetts, Education and Employment: Senior adviser to Monitor Company and economic adviser to Dresdner Kleinwort Benson;

Iain Duncan Smith, Social Security: Business consultant to Arlen and business consultant Wickstead Engineering.

Fabric of textile industry woven into new pattern by shake-out

Jason Nissé says evolution will leave Britain with fewer and leaner woollen mills



No cloth has been made at Salts Mill for nearly a decade. It stands as a symbol of the slow death of the British textile industry

Salts Mill is one of the most famous tourist attractions in West Yorkshire. Standing solidly on the banks of the Leeds-Liverpool canal, some five miles west of Bradford, the mill was built in the 1850s by Sir Titus Salt, the textile magnate and philanthropist, as part of his attempts to create a humane environment for his workers, many of whom had left the countryside to try to eke a living in the textile mills that were the symbol of Britain's Industrial Revolution.

But no cloth has been made at Salts Mill for nearly a decade since Drummond Group, which bought Salts of Saltaire from a rival textile firm, Illingworth Morris, closed the factory. The building is now occupied jointly by Pace, the maker of set-top boxes for the new digital television revolution, and an art gallery, dedicated to the work of David Hockney. It stands as a symbol of the slow death of the British textile industry in general, and the Yorkshire woollen industry in particular.

This week three events have symbolised how desperate matters have become. On Wednesday the Transport & General Workers' Union lobbied Parliament, calling for a national strategy to help the textile industry. The T&G says that the industry — which still employs 370,000 in the UK, or 10 per cent of the manufacturing workforce — is shedding 500 jobs a day. "We want lower interest rates and an export campaign in Europe," the T&G said. "We also want more pressure to be placed on retailers to buy clothing made in the UK."

The final point was a dig at Marks & Spencer, which, in addition to its own problems, is being blamed for softening its "buy British" policy and sourcing products from Rabat which it previously would have bought from Rotherham and from Porto when previously it would have bought from Peterlee. M&S has long been a target for union and industry wrath. At the Labour Party conference, M&S was depicted as a shark eating British jobs.

However, under Sir Richard Greenbury, M&S has bowed to economic reality, arguing the the customers will not pay a premium for British goods, so why should M&S. Many textile companies have been quick to blame M&S for their difficulties, with suppliers such as Dewhirst, William Baird and Claremont Garments, either stating or hinting that falling orders from the high street's largest retailer were behind factory closures and job losses.

But one director of a Yorkshire textile company argued that it is wrong to lay too many of the problems at M&S's door. "You can blame M&S, and there are many who will join you. But the problem is not that M&S is now abandoning British textile firms, but that they supported us for so long. We started depending on them and believing that so long as M&S would buy from us we would be all right. But M&S is not a charity, it's a business. And so are we. They have their commercial priorities and we have to live with them."

The second event was Laura Ashley's decision yesterday to close its manufacturing facilities in Wales, after a fruitless ten-month search for a buyer. Sir Bernard Ashley, like the Sieffs at M&S, was a strong supporter of manufacturing in the UK. But the Welsh factories were uneconomic, despite a large amount of government help, as the same products could be made just as well, and far more cheaply, in developing countries in Asia and North Africa.

Laura Ashley had, in the past, turned down offers to buy the factories, largely because they would have involved closing them down. (One of the offers had come from Coats Viyella, another company with a good record of investing in Britain, particularly in Northern Ireland, and whose profits and shares have suffered as a result.) With Sir Bernard out of the way at Ashley, the company was able to make the tough decision that many have seen as inevitable for many years.

The third event was the bid announced on Monday for Parkland, one of the most ailing of all the sickly woollen manufacturers in Yorkshire. The offer was recommended by Parkland's board yesterday. The Hanson family, one of Parkland's largest shareholders, is bidding to take the company private in a deal that values a company with more than £80 million of turnover at just £5.36 million. Though Parkland has had its own particular problems — not least a faulted strategy of spending its way out of difficulty by investing £16 million in a new dyeing plant in Nottingham — the bid was the latest step in a radical restructuring of the textile industry. According to John Hanson, who is leading the attempt to buy Parkland: "The UK suffers from a chronic manufacturing overcapacity in worsted fabrics and woollen yarns, and consolidation in the industry is urgently needed."

This consolidation is similar to the one in the cotton industry in the 1980s. Courtaulds was the dominant player. Under Martin Taylor it closed down large parts of the industry in Lancashire, putting hundreds out of work, and invested in designers and new technology. Taylor was feted for this strategy and moved on to become chief executive of Barclays, though many argue that it bought the wrong designers.

The woollen industry shakeout is likely to take in more than half a dozen companies based largely in Yorkshire. Among the candidates for this consolidation are Drummond, John Foster — which owns the famous Black Dyke Mills — S Jerome, also in the process of being taken private, Dawson International, which saw a potential bid for it fall apart earlier this year, and the woollen and worsted side of Allied Textiles, the management of which tried to put together a buyout earlier this year. That deal also fell apart.

The feeling in Yorkshire is that in the future there may be only one company spinning wool and no more than two involved in weaving worsted fabric. This compares with, say, no more than 20 years ago, when there were more than a dozen successful companies in both of those sectors.

According to Mr Hanson, both sectors may have to cut capacity by up to half, with much basic production sourced abroad, in Asia or the former Eastern bloc, and with UK factories specialising, using high technology and stepping up design input and innovation. "It's Darwin's evolution," he said. "We can have a great industry again, but not of the size and shape it is now. It has to be modern and aggressive and can no longer live off its heritage. It is no good sitting here being slaughtered on price and hoping the market will improve."

Unfortunately for the workers at many of these factories, this future does not involve jobs for them. Workers in Guangdong will take over from those in Guiseley. It does not matter whether the T&G persuades the Government to help, or whether M&S is willing to keep subsidising parts of the UK textile industry. This economic evolution will continue.

"Giant mills like Salts are uneconomic for textiles these days," said one senior industry figure. "It's sad, but it's life."

BUSINESS LETTERS

It's the management, stupid

From Mr R.S. Piggott

Sir, When will we learn? For many years British industrial management blamed the trade unions. Mrs Thatcher removed that excuse. We then moved on for a brief period to blame the standard of our graduates, relative to some mythical previous halcyon days when all graduates are now deemed to have bordered on the genius. If that is the case, how is it that so many of these "failures" enjoy successful, fulfilling and well-paid careers with foreign employers? More recently we hold interest rates responsible for our industrial woes. To my certain knowledge interest rates have been going up and down since time immemorial. Now we hear the CBI arguing against legislation that will require more information for employees about their employer. The argument is that this will create unnecessary bureaucracy resulting in a slowdown of market responsiveness. Apparently the legislation is aimed at increasing workers' rights. Now here's a novel idea. Why not tell the workers what your strategies, plans and competitive problems are, not as an increase in the employees' rights, but because it might just help the overall business if all employees, professional and non-professional alike, have some idea of what the company is trying to achieve? As for the bureaucratic argument, it is precisely because our industry is run on bureaucratic lines that we are non-competitive.

The fact that vast sums of public money, in various guises, have been thrown at the problem, to little avail, should tell us something. Perhaps we could start by examining the deadly embrace of the boardroom with the City, to the exclusion of the productive staff. A response, by the company, to the marketplace rather than to the share price might just benefit both company and share price. Finally, we might show more faith in our young graduates by freeing up their creativity before the climb up the usual British corporate ladder has exhausted them to the point where there is no longer any motivation to be creative. It is an appalling waste.

To summarise the root cause of our industrial problems and demise, we could do worse than paraphase the current President of the US: "It's the management, stupid!"

I write as someone who, without the benefit of a university education, has made the journey from factory floor to boardroom, with both UK and US major companies.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. PIGGOTT,
Thameswalk Apartments,
2 Hester Road,
London, SW11 3BG.

Eurotunnel's capacity to disappoint

From Mr Martin Anscombe

Sir, When I arrived at the Folkestone Eurotunnel terminal at 11.00 on Friday November 20 a departure of 12.51 was allocated. The call to the ramp came at 13.15 for what transpired to be a 14.12 departure. While I was on the ramp, Eurotunnel News (107.6FM) was heard to inform travellers on the M20 not to bother if they had not pre-booked.

It was intriguing, therefore, to read on the front page of *The Times* Business section of the same day that Eurotunnel did not expect to reach capacity until 2025. Not much out by time but wildly out by year, it seems.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN ANSCOMBE,
2 Harvey Street,
Watton,
Norfolk IP25 6EP.

Acting up

THE man in charge of the OFT's cartel-busting swat team acquired a taste for drama early in life. Adrian Walker-Smith's first job was as a child actor, a career that lasted until he was 18. The civil servant recalls performing in *Noddy in Toy Town* in the role of Chief of the Red Goblins.

Walker-Smith, now 51, is clearly looking forward to the prospect of pursuing Britain's business baddies. He joined the competition authority 11 years ago. "I was tempted by an advertisement that said: 'Join the OFT and hunt down cartels'," he recalls.

His expanding team are being trained by Customs and Excise in the art of arriving at a corporate HQ without an appointment. And how to spot the secret price-fixing meeting as you flick through the sales director's desk diary while the chairman looks nervously over your shoulder.

Regrettably, Walker-Smith will miss out on the fun bits of the job. Being a model of probity, the OFT requires that the man in charge keep his distance from the actual investigation. "It is one of my great sadnesses that I cannot go out and knock on doors."



"Oates has gone and he may be some time"

ARCH ad man Peter Mead was not his usual lucid self yesterday. Following the revelation of bid talks with Omnicom, the chairman of Abbot Mead Vickers (who was responsible for BT's "It's good to talk" slogan) was given a minder from Credit Suisse First Boston, the merchant bank, to stop him from revealing too much to the press. By mid-afternoon the constant presence of the minder was clearly beginning to wear Mead down. "It's like making love to a woman with her husband in the room," he said. I'll take his word for that.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sloe, sloe

WHILE Diageo is busy trying to prove that big is best in the drinks industry, one small West Country distiller is proving that small is not so bad, either.

Plymouth Gin, which was selling just 7,000 cases when it was the subject of a buyout from Allied Domecq in 1996, expects sales to reach 45,000 cases this year. Indeed, in the UK it claims to be selling at least half the volume of the designer brand Bombay Sapphire — despite having had no marketing investment to speak of.

But it clearly has a long way to go before it matches the big boys. It was only able to compare itself with its rivals after borrowing somebody else's copy of the latest AC Nielsen statistics. "We don't have the money to buy the Nielsen data," admits Charles Rolls, Plymouth managing director.

Pub crawl

STILL with Diageo: Tony Blair was in almost whimsical mood during yesterday's historic address to both houses of Ireland's Parliament. Recalling childhood summers spent in the countryside of Donegal, he said: "It was there ... that my father took me to my first pub, a remote little house in the country, for a Guinness — a taste I've never forgotten and always a pleasure to repeat."

Tony Greener, the Diageo chairman, whom I bumped into at the Guinnness and Oysters Luncheon at Mansion House, was delighted when I told him what the PM had said. "We're currently trying to persuade Mr Blair to do a couple of other things for us, so it's good to know he likes one of our products so much."

Top Marks

SOME good news for M&S as it attempts to pick up the pieces. In a survey of 1,500 board directors, published yesterday, it was named as the most admired retail store in the land. Unfortunately for M&S the research was carried out over the summer, before poor trading and a bungled succession process combined to leave its jealously guarded reputation in tatters. Also, its retail rival Tesco topped the overall poll to grab the title of the UK's Most Admired Company, leaving M&S trailing in 11th place.

DAVID THOMPSON, the genial managing director of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, was in a playful mood yesterday after launching a hostile £262 million bid for its Midlands rival Marston, Thompson & Evershed. I asked him if he'd had any thoughts about a name for the combined group. "I rather like Marston, Thompson & Evershed," he chortled.

DOMINIC WALSH



Tony Greener: anxious to recruit the Prime Minister

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£50,000–£99,999	6.85	6.64
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BBA survey debunks borrowing myths

By Richard Miles
Banking Correspondent

A FASCINATING snapshot of people's borrowing habits emerged yesterday when the British Bankers' Association (BBA) produced its first detailed breakdown of the monthly mortgage and consumer credit figures.

The findings of the BBA, the membership of which accounts for about two-thirds of UK lending after the conversion of several building societies last year, appear to kill off some of the more widely propagated myths about people and their money.

Reliance on overdrafts, for example, has waned steadily in recent years, suggesting that the public has woken up to the often exorbitant cost of this form of borrowing. Four years ago, overdrafts represented 20 per cent of personal lending by banks. Today, that figure is below 13 per cent, as borrowers switch to personal loans.

Perhaps more suprisingly, the BBA figures indicate that most people do not use credit cards to borrow money, another expensive way of obtaining a loan. Instead, they use plastic as an alternative way to pay, settling their bills regularly each month. This past October, for instance, repayments almost entirely offset new credit.

Nor is there any evidence of "distress borrowing" which one might expect against a backdrop of gathering economic gloom, said David Dooks, the BBA's director of statistics.

"Business surveys may show less confidence about the economy, but people do not feel any less confident about their own economic well-being," Mr Dooks said.

The BBA has carried out a similar exercise on its monthly mortgage figures, distinguishing between buyers of new homes and existing borrowers seeking to remortgage their houses. It also identifies those borrowers who want to raise additional money on their property, either to finance home improvements or to tap into the equity locked up in their homes.

Remortgages now account for roughly a third off all new lending in the housing market — 34 per cent by volume and 31 per cent by value in October — as borrowers seek a better deal in a more competitive market. A year ago remortgage business accounted for less than 16 per cent of the number of home loans granted by banks.

The rapid growth of the remortgage market has taken some lenders by surprise, in particular Halifax, the country's biggest mortgage provider. At the half year, Halifax disclosed that redemptions by borrowers seeking to remortgage elsewhere on more competitive terms, outstripped new loans, leaving the bank with a zero share of net new lending. Halifax has subsequently re-entered the remortgage market with vigour.

Loans for home improvement or equity release, which have gained in popularity with elderly customers whose sole asset is typically their home, have remained fairly stable as a proportion of total mortgage business, running at about 7 per cent. However, demand for such loans seems highest when the housing market stalls. "It tends to be counter-cyclical to house prices," Mr Dooks said.

☐ The Credit Card Research Group said yesterday that monthly credit and debit card spending topped £10 billion in October for the first time since last Christmas. The group attributed the increase to an unprecedented level of competition in the market, which has helped to push up the number of cards in issue to almost 40 million.

European Commission raids BPB premises

By Chris Ayres

SHARES in BPB fell 42p to 217p yesterday after the plasterboard manufacturer admitted that several of its offices had been raided by European Commission officials.

The investigation is thought to be into pricing and anti-competitive behaviour in the European plasterboard industry, which is controlled by three large companies: Knauf, of Germany; Lafarge, of France; and BPB, of Britain.

The investigation, which also involves several technical issues, could take up to a year to complete. Jean-Pierre Cuny, BPB's chief executive, said yesterday: "BPB is co-operating fully with these inquiries. Until the Commission's investigation is completed, no further statement can be made on this matter."

The Commission investigation almost entirely eclipsed BPB's results, which showed a small rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 to £89.6 million from £89 million. However, including the cost of closing its Radcliffe mill in Manchester, and its bond-buying exercise, pre-tax profits were £68.6 million.

M Cuny said: "Unlike last year, when the second half saw much faster growth in plasterboard volumes than the first, the overall trend of trading now suggests slower growth for the remainder of the year.

"However, the contribution from additional sales volume and greater cost-saving initiatives should broadly offset the effects of continued cost and selling price pressures, and new business development expenditure."

He added that he thought the price of plasterboard would improve, after a period of intense pressure created by the industry's biggest players fighting over market share. "We do not think we have lost market share," he said.

Sales at the company fell nearly 2 per cent from £658 million to £647 million, while earnings per share rose slightly from 11.5p to 11.6p. An interim dividend of 4p will be paid in April.

M Cuny said BPB was looking to expand into Asia, and that it had up to £200 million to spend on acquisitions, with the aim of developing complementary products.

BPB said it still planned to go ahead with its share buy-back programme, but added that it did not know what percentage of stock it would purchase. It has permission from shareholders to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares.



Cuny: prices will improve

Tempus, page 32

WILL WALKER



Geoff Gibson, finance director, left, and Martin Buckley regard exceptional costs as the short-term price for being growth-led

Underlying fall at Waddington

By Matthew Barbour

WADDINGTON, the packaging and printing company, suffered a fall in underlying profits and turnover in the first half but said that it remained confident about its ability to withstand difficult trading conditions.

In the six months to October 3 profits before exceptional charges fell to £16.3 million from £17.1 million on turnover of £165.1 million, down from £169.8 million.

Martin Buckley, chief executive, said: "We are never going to be a totally risk-free business. We are anxious to grow and exceptional costs are the short-term price for being forward-looking and growth-led."

The sale of businesses over the past six months, including last month's sale of European Cartons for £67.5 million, gave rise to a gross profit of £20.8 million. The consequent writeback of goodwill of £28.2 million resulted in an exceptional loss of £7.4 million, reducing pre-tax profits to £8.9 million from £17.1 million in the first half of the previous year.

Net borrowings have been reduced from £71.5 million to £4 million and gearing has fallen from 70 per cent to 3 per cent.

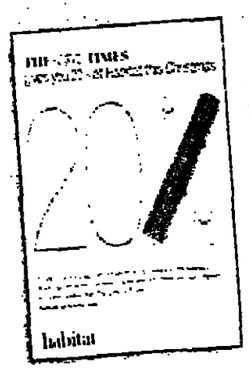
Sales in the pharmaceutical packaging division rose to £28.1 million (£20.4 million) as a result of organic growth and the impact of recent acquisitions in the US. Sales in the specialist printing division fell to £49 million (£52.4 million) with operating profits broadly maintained at £6 million (£5.9 million).

Adjusted earnings were 11.75p a share (11.74p). The interim dividend is lifted to 5p a share from 4.7p. The shares fell 11p to 181p.

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CHANGING TIMES

First-half loss results in dividend cut by Regalian

By Matthew Barbour

REGALIAN PROPERTIES, the upmarket property developer, has cut its interim dividend after incurring a £279,000 loss in the first half, compared with a pre-tax profit of £2.2 million in the first half of the previous year.

The interim dividend is reduced to 0.25p a share from 0.475p. The company said it expected to make a profit in the second half, but restated a previous warning that full-year profits would not match the £6.7 million earned in the previous 12 months.

David Goldstone, the chairman, said: "As we warned at the company's AGM earlier this year, the construction of our two main projects has not yet reached the stage where we can complete contract purchases."



Goldstone: still confident

He said that the group anticipated returns from the Point West and Chelsea Gate projects in the second half.

In the last recession Regalian suffered when it was left holding hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of expensive property that could not be sold. Worries that Regalian could suffer from the fall-out of the Far East economic crisis have resurfaced recently. But Mr Goldstone said he was confident that domestic demand for London property is strong enough to compensate for any downturn in Asian demand.

The Point West development in Kensington has attracted substantial interest, with 202 of the 267 apartments now either completed, exchanged or reserved.

Caledonia boosted by disposal figure of £61m

By Richard Miles

A PROFIT from disposals of £61 million helped Caledonia Investments, the diversified trading and investment company, to boost half-year pre-tax profits by more than 360 per cent to £81.2 million.

However, the one-off gains masked a slight decline in Caledonia's underlying business. Operating profits for the six months to September 30 fell by 13 per cent to £20.1 million, largely reflecting a drop in equity values during the period.

Peter Buckley, chairman, said Caledonia had amassed cash of £106 million from disposals, which included the sale of Abacus, the self-storage business, and a reduction from 25 to 20 per cent of its holding in Close Brothers, the investment bank.

The disposals, by a group that in the past has been reluctant to sell its investments, has left Caledonia with 20 per cent of its assets in cash. Mr Buckley said the strong cash position left the company well-placed against a "world economic outlook which remains very uncertain".

Caledonia attributed the fall in operating profits to the performance of subsidiaries such as Exco, the finance house, which has merged with the broking operation of Intercapital, and London Forfaiting, the trade finance firm.

Caledonia has since raised its stake in Close Brothers to 21 per cent. Abacus, built up over ten years, realised a capital profit of £30 million. Caledonia also sold its warrants in the English & Scottish Investors trust for £9 million.

Earnings per share, after adjustment for the disposals, slipped to 15.5p from 17.9p in the same period last year. Caledonia will still pay an increased interim dividend of 7.0p (6.5p) on January 14.

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BUSINESS RU

Northern Electric suffers charges

NORTHERN ELECTRIC, the regional electricity company that is owned by America's CalEnergy, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits to £40.7 million from a restated £57.5 million in the six months to September 30. The results were adversely affected by costs of £15 million linked to the introduction of competition in the gas and electricity markets and a restructuring charge of £3 million. Interest charges were also higher as a result of the £118 million payment in December 1997, the first instalment of the windfall tax levied on utilities. The final instalment is due in the second half of this year.

Northern's turnover in the first half rose to £480.4 million from a restated £427.1 million. Gregory Abel, the president and chief operating officer, said that although one-off costs had been incurred to strengthen the company's market position, the underlying trading performance had improved "significantly" over the previous year.

LMS pegs payout

LONDON MERCHANT SECURITIES, the property and venture capital investor, announced an 11.9 per cent rise in operating profits to £16.7 million for the six months to September 30. Pre-tax profit was £35.1 million, boosted by the £18.8 million sale of an investment in Six Flags Entertainment Corporation. Interim pre-tax profits of £69 million last time also benefited from a large exceptional sale. Earnings were 5.16p a share before capital items, against 5.1p, and 10.84p in total (28.29p). The dividend stays at 0.9p. LMS investments suffered because of falls in the share prices of First Leisure and Weatherford International.

CPL disappoints

SHARES of CPL Aromas, the fragrance and flavours company, dropped 13½p to 93p yesterday on the announcement of interim results that the chairman admitted were disappointing. David Hankinson said the fragrance division had experienced difficulties, and that "trading conditions are likely to remain unsettled for the remainder of the year". CPL made a pre-tax profit of £900,000 in the six months to September 30, down from £1.4 million last time, on turnover that was unchanged at £17.9 million. Earnings fell to 4.8p a share from 7.4p. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.9p a share.

DBS to consolidate

DBS MANAGEMENT, the business services group that includes the UK's largest network of independent financial advisers, yesterday said it was going to be a year of consolidation as it reported that pre-tax profit, before exceptionals, had fallen to £4.2 million (£4.9 million) for the six months to September 30. The company said: "Trading conditions have been somewhat more difficult than anticipated." Turnover increased 7 per cent to £77.5 million. Earnings per share were 6.3p (6.0p) and the company declared an interim dividend of 1.65p (1.4p).

Latchways advances

LATCHWAYS, the supplier of safety equipment, raised interim pre-tax profits to £1.1 million from £400,000 in the six months to September 30. Turnover increased to £3.2 million from £2.1 million. The company has installed safety equipment at the Millennium Dome in London and on the Sydney Harbour bridge. Earnings were 7.23p a share, compared with 3.17p, and there is a maiden interim dividend of 2.5p a share. The shares, which floated on the stock market last year, rose 5p to 295p yesterday.

Symonds warning

SYMONDS, the electronics manufacturer, announced yesterday that it had so far overcome "a number of commercial challenges" this year, but said that difficulties would continue. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 were £2.2 million, compared with a loss of £84,000 caused by exceptional charges last time, on turnover of £23.8 million (£20.5 million). Earnings were 2.2p a share (loss of 0.5p) and an unchanged dividend of 0.6p was declared. Rod Ackrill, the chairman, said market conditions were likely to remain difficult.

Dawson rises by 12%

DAWSON HOLDINGS, the newspaper and magazine wholesaler that moved to a full listing on the stock exchange last June, reported pre-tax profit up 12 per cent at £12.8 million, before exceptionals, for the year to September 30. The company said it had successfully integrated the UK wholesale interests of Johnsons News Group, which it bought in January for £32 million. The acquisition lifted turnover by 24 per cent to £738 million. Earnings per share were 13.3p (10.9p) and a final dividend of 3.1p makes the total for the year 10.3p, up 10.4 per cent.

Syltone ahead 36%

SYLTONE, the transport engineering group, said it expected steady growth over the second half as it reported pre-tax profits up 36 per cent at £2.72 million for the six months to September 30. However, the company said there were signs in the UK that forward order books were being affected by the overall business climate. Turnover was up 15 per cent at £45.26 million. Earnings per share were 0.61p (5.13p) and the interim dividend is 2.25p (2.1p). The results included a first full contribution from Perolo, the tank truck equipment maker.

Comino boosts profits

COMINO, a supplier of software-based business solutions, yesterday reported profit up from £830,000 to £1.27 million for the six months to September 30. Turnover was £8.72 million, up from £5.03 million. Earnings per share were 7.24p (5.3p) and the company's maiden interim dividend is 1.25p. Comino said that in addition to "solid organic growth", the results reflected acquisitions made during the course of last year. It added that growth was "not dependent on any aspect of millennium business".

Allianz set to achieve record profits

From a Correspondent in Frankfurt

ALLIANZ, Europe's largest insurance group, said it was on track to reach record profits and sales this year despite turbulent financial markets and particular natural disasters that raised claims costs.

The German company expects double-digit growth in its worldwide premium income reaching DM[illegible] billion (£[illegible] billion), a [illegible] per cent increase on 1997.

In the first nine months of 1998 premium income rose by 18% per cent to DM76 billion. Income rose in the consolidation of AGF, the French insurer taken over earlier this year.

AGF contributed DM[illegible] billion marks of premium income to the nine-month results and is expected to boost full year premium income by DM[illegible] billion.

Property and casualty insurance accounted for DM44.9 billion of the nine-month figure, while life and health insurance generated the rest.

The results were in line with expectations and the market showed little reaction to the announcement with Allianz shares up 2.1% per cent to DM[illegible] 45 mirroring a 2.1 per cent rise in the blue-chip Dax index.

Analysts, who had been expecting Allianz to meet its own earnings and premium income goals, said the group now faced little risk of missing the target after financial markets recovered from their early October lows.

"Overall claims experienced a slight upward trend caused by extraordinary natural events such as the ice storm in Canada and Hurricane Georges," Allianz said, adding that industrial insurance claims in Germany contributed to the increase.

Drop in v[illegible] companie[illegible]

By Robert Co[illegible]

THE falling value of small companies has affected [illegible] Britain's leading venture and development capital firm. The company's net asset value fell 5 per cent to 325p a share in the six months to September 30.

However, Sir George Russell, chairman, said the downward movement had knocked back off the average worth of small unquoted companies and presented 3i with improved investment opportunities. He also said that 3i had recognised the previous high valuations by crystallising investments and holding back from making new ones.

Shares in 3i were the best performing of the top 100 companies yesterday, rising more than 10 per cent to 590p.

The falling market value of small company shares had an adverse impact on 3i's net asset value because the company values its portfolio, which comprises 3,000 different companies, with reference to the price/earnings multiple of publicly listed small company shares.

The multiple used at the end of September, the close of 3i's interim accounting period, was eight times. In March it was 10 per cent higher at 11.3 times.

However, 3i said that the negative return on its investments of nearly £50 million ow[illegible]



Sir Geor[illegible]

Omnicom

By Jason Nisse

OMNICOM, the US marketing services company, yesterday said it is in talks to buy Abbott Mead Vickers, London's most successful advertising agency in which Omnicom already has a 27 per cent stake.

The deal is likely to value AMV shares at between 425p and 450p, compared with a price that rose 45½p to 408½p yesterday. This would place a price tag of up to £340 million on AMV and give a bonus of at least £100,000 each for up to 70 AMV staff.

AMV's directors, led by Peter Mead, the chairman, are also likely to pick up about £12 million from the takeover. On top of this there are outstanding earn-out payments of nearly £50 million ow[illegible]

Allianz set to achieve record profits

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT

ALLIANZ, Europe's largest insurance group, said it was on track to reach record profits and sales this year despite turbulent financial markets and spectacular natural disasters that raised claims costs.

The German company expects double-digit profits growth this year, with worldwide premium income reaching DM106 billion (£37.5 million), a 24 per cent increase over 1997.

In 1997 Allianz earned a net profit of DM2.7 billion on premium income of DM85.6 billion.

In the first nine months of 1998 premium income rose by 18.7 per cent to DM76 billion, largely due to the consolidation of AGF, the French insurer taken over earlier this year.

AGF contributed DM12 billion marks of premium income to the nine-month results and is expected to boost full 1998 premium income by DM18 billion.

Property and casualty insurance accounted for DM44.9 billion of the nine-month figure, while life and health insurance generated the rest.

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"Overall claims experienced a slight upward trend caused by extraordinary natural events such as the ice storm in Canada and Hurricane Georges," Allianz said, adding that industrial insurance claims in Germany contributed to the increase.

ALAN WELLER



Soup Works, a take-away chain that claims to provide "a lunchtime alternative with the strength to challenge the supremacy of the sandwich", opens its first restaurant in D'Arblay Street, Soho, next Monday. The Ofex-listed company, whose managing director is restaurateur Bruce Isaacs, above, plans to set up the chain of "fast soup" outlets across London, which will offer a delivery service that will take orders via the Internet

Yorkshire fears water price cuts will reduce payouts

BY ADAM JONES

YORKSHIRE WATER yesterday gave warning that its dividend growth will be held back by price cuts proposed by its regulator, Ofwat.

Although Yorkshire is confident that it can increase the annual payment to shareholders by 6 to 8 per cent above inflation until 2000, it admits that dividend growth will slow after that whatever form the pricing review finally takes.

Ofwat has suggested a 15 to 20 per cent cut in average household bills for Yorkshire's customers in 2000. Like other water supply companies, Yorkshire is arguing that the regulator has underestimated what it will have to pay to finance its investment programme.

Kevin Bond, chief executive, said Yorkshire would continue to negotiate quietly with Ofwat. "The way to tackle this is not through megaphone diplomacy," he said. "We think that what the regulator has put forward is extremely challenging. We would want clarification on a number of issues."

Customers did not want a big cut in bills followed by big rises in later years, he said.

Faced with Ofwat's tough stance, Yorkshire said yesterday that it wants to draw 50 per cent of revenue and about 15 per cent of profits from non-regulated businesses, such as recycling and rubbish collection, by 2005.

The group was reporting pre-tax profits of £118 million for the first six months of the year, up from interim profits of £115.7 million last year. Turnover rose from £322.5 million to £340.4 million; 14.1 per cent of this came from unregulated actvivites, down from 14.6 per cent in the 1997 first half, but organic and acquisitive growth is still filtering in.

Yorkshire merged its dry and liquid waste management operations with those of Waste Recycling Group in August. The integration of the two businesses will continue in the second half. Yorkshire has also bought 3C Waste, a Cheshire waste disposal company.

Mr Bond said that, despite the desire of most water utilities to buy environmental management companies, competition for new acquisitions is not too restrictive. "It's a huge marketplace," he said.

He said that Yorkshire sometimes came up against one or two other water companies when it was looking to buy a waste management company or a similar enterprise.

Earnings per share were 30.2p, up from a loss of 8.3p last year, when the windfall tax was paid. An interim dividend of 6.75p (6.15p) has been declared.

Pennon sets sights on expansion

PENNON, the water supply and waste management group formerly known as South West Water, is hungry for acquisitions to reduce its vulnerability to tough regulatory reviews (Adam Jones writes).

Ken Hill, finance director, refused to say how much was earmarked for deals but said Pennon was prepared to see gearing rise to 100 per cent. At the end of this year, it is likely to be about 75 per cent.

Pennon wants non-regulated businesses to account for 50 per cent of turnover within the next two or three years. Through its Haul Waste subsidiary, Pennon is already the biggest operator of landfill sites in the UK.

In the interim results published yesterday, 38 per cent of the £220.2 million group turnover came from unregulated sources, despite the Asian financial crisis affecting its instrumentation business, whose products include testing equipment for soil and concrete.

Pre-tax profits for the first half of the year were £71.5 million, up from £68 million. However, were it not for a £5 million exceptional credit resulting from settlement of a waste management legal claim, the year-on-year comparison would have shown a fall.

Profits from the core South West Water business fell nearly £5 million after it absorbed an increased interest charge. South West has been threatened with a price cut of 15-20 per cent in 2000 by Ofwat, the regulator, which issued its Prospects for Prices consultation document recently.

Interim earnings per share fell from 64p to 61.3p before exceptionals. An interim dividend of 14.7p (13.2p) per share will be paid on April 6, 1999.

Cartel-busters given greater powers by change in law

BY CARL MORTISHED

A NEW government hit squad with extraordinary powers of search and seizure will soon be let loose on British businesses. The Office of Fair Trading is doubling the size of its Cartels Task Force which will acquire new powers under the Competition Act to break into premises, seize documents and impose huge fines.

The OFT is launching a campaign to warn businesses of the dangers that they face if they engage in price-fixing, squeezing out competitors and rigging markets.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said yesterday that in the past the OFT was unable to obtain evidence to stop cartels. The new Act, which comes into force in March 2000, gives the OFT similar powers to the European Commission. The Commission's investigators can already drop in uninvited at the UK offices of multinationals in search of incriminating documents.

Mr Bridgeman said: "It took 13 years for us to bring a cement cartel to book. All it will take now is one whistle-blower and we will be able to act. We expect to be able to destroy cartels in weeks or months rather than years."

The OFT has produced a mini-drama on video about a fictional investigation. Actors portraying grim-faced OFT investigators arrive uninvited at an office, slam their briefcases on the receptionist's desk and demand to see the chairman. They eventually unearth evidence in diaries of a price-fixing meeting held at a golf tournament.

Lawyers are leaping at the opportunity to educate clients to the dangers. Cameron McKenna has produced a "Dawn Raid Response Pack". Richard Taylor, a partner, reckons the UK Act gives the OFT even greater powers than the European Commission. "It has not been possible for the OFT to use force to gain access."

Big UK companies already train their staff, including receptionists, how to respond to raids by the Commission in order to avoid investigators prowling through the building like unguided missiles.

Mr Bridgeman said there would be a big incentive for people to rat on cartels. The legislation treats whistle-blowing as a mitigating circumstance.

Based on EU competition law, the new Act prohibits agreements that distort competition and activity that abuses a company's position, which is broadly defined as a market share of 40 per cent or more.

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Ransom slides to 5-year low

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

SHARES in William Ransom, the toiletries and cosmetics company, yesterday slumped to a five-year low after it reported a fall in first-half profits caused by turbulent Far East markets and the strong pound.

William Ransom, chairman, also gave warning that third-quarter trading suggests second-half results would also be affected by weak exports.

Ransom shares, which reached a high of 83p earlier this year, fell 5p at 39½p.

Before exceptionals, pre-tax profits fell to £330,000 in the six months to the end of September from £427,000 on turnover down 8.5 per cent at £4.4 million. Adjusted earnings fell to 1.45p a share from 1.86p. The interim dividend is maintained at 0.89p.

William Ransom supplies natural extracts supplied to customers such as Body Shop, herbal ingredients for health drinks and bitters used in the making of alcopops.

Drop in value of small companies knocks 3i

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

THE falling value of small companies has affected 3i, Britain's leading venture and development capital firm. The company's net asset value fell 9 per cent to 525p a share in the six months to September 30.

However, Sir George Russell, chairman, said the downward movement had knocked froth off the average worth of small unquoted companies and presented 3i with improved investment opportunities. He also said that 3i had recognised the previous high valuations by crystallising investments and holding back from making new ones.

Shares in 3i were the best performing of the top 100 companies yesterday, rising more than 10 per cent to 590p.

The falling market value of small company shares had an adverse impact on 3i's net asset value because the company values its portfolio, which comprises 3,000 different companies, with reference to the price/earnings multiple of publicly listed small company shares.

The multiple used at the end of September, the close of 3i's interim accounting period, was eight times. In March it was 30 per cent higher at 11.3 times.

However, 3i said that the negative return on its investments of 9 per cent compared favourably with the 15 per cent fall in the FTSE All-share index and a 24 per cent decline in the FTSE Small Cap index. The Small Cap index measures the share price performance of most companies outside the top 350.

The profits before tax — made up of interest and dividend income, and fund management fees — rose 19 per cent to £84.6 million.

The company also published results of a quarterly survey which showed business confience continuing at a low ebb. It surveys managers of companies in which it invests on a quarterly basis. In June the poll showed a sharp slump and the latest figure showed it to have worsened. But the rate of decline was slower, prompting 3i to suggest that the fall-off was bottoming out.

Tempus, page 32



Sir George Russell said 3i had crystallised investments

Devro hit by fresh warning

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES of Devro fell sharply yesterday after the sausage casings company issued another profits warning.

The company said underlying pre-tax profits were now likely to be about £40 million in the current year, down from £58 million in the previous 12 months. Analysts' forecasts, downgraded in the summer after the first warning, had expected profits of about £53 million. The shares, which traded at 545p in May, fell 36p to 199p yesterday.

Devro blamed economic difficulties in Eastern Europe, particularly Russia, although the impact was now spreading to other markets. It is cutting back production of cellulose casings at Danville in the US and Lommel in Belgium.

US profits are now expected to be £5 million below the September estimates, with European profits affected to a similar degree. The company also expects to increase inventory and bad debt provisions by about £2 million.

Devro has already begun to cut costs and will make a £4 million charge against redundancies. Restructuring is expected to yield annual savings of up to £7 million from 2000. The group expects to maintain the total dividend at 9.5p.

Omnicom set to acquire AMV

BY JASON NISSÉ

OMNICOM, the US marketing services company, yesterday said it is in talks to buy Abbott Mead Vickers, London's most successful advertising agency in which Omnicom already has a 27 per cent stake.

The deal is likely to value AMV shares at between 425p and 450p, compared with a price that rose 48½p to 408½p yesterday. This would place a price tag of up to £340 million on AMV and give a bonus of at least £100,000 each for up to 70 AMV staff.

AMV's directors, led by Peter Mead, the chairman, are also likely to pick up about £12 million from the takeover. On top of this there are outstanding earn out payments of nearly £50 million owing on a series of acquisitions made by AMV in the past couple of years, largely of design and public relations firms.

The move is seen as further strengthening Omnicom's dominance of the UK marketing services market. Earlier this year it paid £150 million for GGT Group, a deal which left it with two advertising networks in the UK — TWBA Simmons Palmer and BMP Needham. After the deal AMV will be known as BBDO Abbott Mead Vickers, formalising a link which was first forged in 1992 when Omnicom bought its stake in AMV.

Omnicom has said it has no problems running parallel advertising networks without clients worrying about conflicts of interest among the different advertising agencies.

The deal comes at an interesting time for AMV, which is known in the industry for its success with BT's "It's good to talk" campaign.

Two years ago it became the largest agency in London, overtaking J Walter Thompson, where Mr Mead started his career, and Saatchi & Saatchi.

However, in the summer David Abbott, one of the founders of the company, announced his retirement and the group's shares were affected by worries about future earnings from advertising and fell to a low of 248p.

Despite this, the agency is still seen by rivals as one of the most creative houses in London.

Its client list includes Volvo, the RSPCA, J Sainsbury, Mars and Guinness.

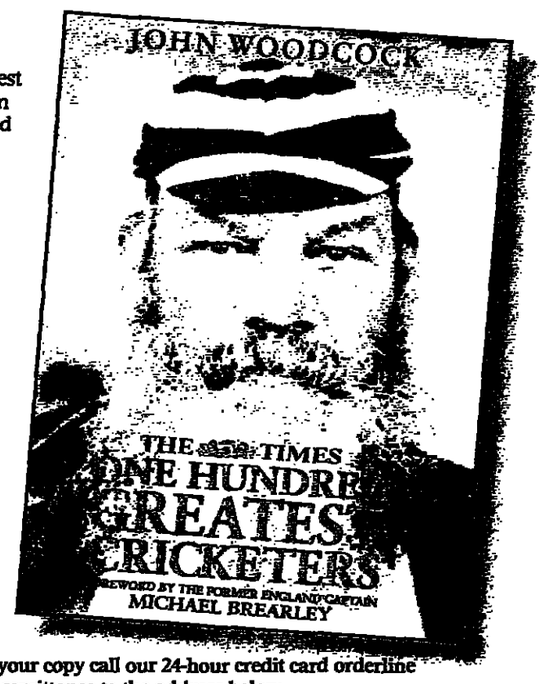
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European Gen	412.25	436.10†	+ 2.39	..
European Strat	182.61	195.30†	- 3.69	..
Japan Gen	106.93	112.81	- 0.85	..
Asia Pacific	63.59	67.90†	+ 1.11	1.09
Pacific Strat	85.97	91.94	- 1.13	..
Greater China	157.19	168.12	- 0.56	..
Latin America	68.71	73.48	+ 1.85	..
Int Growth	182.08	194.42	+ 2.45	0.11
Balanced Exempt	167.74	173.82		2.18
Global Strategy	41.76	44.66	+ 1.35	..

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AXA Equity & Law Unit Tsts				
Balanced Acc	81.23	86.41†	+ 0.68	1.70
Balanced Inc	72.97	77.63†	+ 0.61	1.70
Brit Excell	127.30	135.40†	+ 1.30	2.41
Brit Fndmtls Acc	166.30	176.90	+ 1.60	3.93
Brit Fndmtls Inc	103.10	109.70	+ 1.00	3.93
Europe	549.50	584.60	+16.00	0.62
General Acc	935.40	994.80	+ 7.90	2.46
General Inc	748.60	796.20	+ 6.30	2.46
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	264.70	279.50	+ 2.00	4.98
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	105.10	110.90	- 0.80	4.98
Global Opps	129.30	137.60†	+ 1.10	0.12
Higher Inc Acc #	1230.80	1308.00†	+25.80	4.34
Higher Inc Inc #	608.10	646.90†	+12.00	4.34
Japan Acc	33.72	35.87†	+ 0.17	..
Nth America	508.90	541.40†	+ 3.50	..
Pac Basin Acc	280.70	298.60†	- 0.60	0.82
UK Growth Acc	639.10	679.90†	+ 6.90	2.14
UK Growth Inc	397.10	422.40†	- 4.20	2.14
AXA Gen Life Trusts				
Discretionary	63.96	68.04†	- 0.31	..
Extra Inc Inc #	42.10	44.53†	+ 0.07	5.39
High Yld Inc	122.00	129.80†	+ 1.20	2.61
Inc & Gth Inc	115.70	122.70†	+ 0.70	2.43
Pacific Grth Port	33.48	35.62	+ 0.15	0.81
UK Income Inc	83.32	88.64	+ 0.61	2.13
UK Smaller Cos	40.26	42.85†	+ 0.19	2.10

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	158.50	168.20	+ 0.60	5.29
High Inc Equity	242.30	259.10†	+ 0.29	3.99
Worldwide Bond	289.80	307.10†	+ 0.19	3.43
American Growth	612.90	654.30	+ 2.70	0.21
Asian Pacific	210.80	224.60	- 0.70	0.55
Assets & Earnings	367.10	392.60†	+ 0.30	2.80
Euro Capital Acc	292.80	312.90	+ 2.50	0.24
Euro Inc	41.24	43.87†	+ 0.08	1.94
General	333.90	355.20	+ 0.30	2.72
Global Opps	79.13	84.18	+ 0.45	0.38
Japan	80.49	86.08	+ 0.19	..
Managed Inc	56.49	60.10†	+ 0.11	4.34
Meditrust	199.10	212.90	- 0.30	1.13
US Emerging Cos	223.20	238.70	+ 2.40	..
Ethical	87.71	93.31	- 0.01	1.34
International	158.40	169.40	+ 0.80	..
Dividend & Growth	90.35	96.12	+ 0.08	3.20
Global Gwth & Sec	82.94	88.54	+ 0.07	1.97
Latin America	52.40	56.04	+ 0.08	1.20
Capital Reserve	164.90	165.00	+ 0.10	4.24

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 9300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
N&P UK Growth	125.40	133.40	+ 0.70	1.45
Equity Income #	166.30	176.90	+ 0.70	3.40
Extra Income #	333.00	353.70	+ 1.20	4.15
Smaller Cos	78.77	83.79†	- 0.81	2.77
International	147.50	156.90†	+ 1.30	0.84

ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD
Enq: 0345 660 660 Dlg: 0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Opp Acc	371.12	389.39	+ 2.72	..
Asia Pacific	55.12	58.32	+ 0.13	0.25
Emg Mkts Inc	42.12	44.57	+ 0.21	0.43
Ethical Inc	86.32	91.33	+ 0.18	1.35
Euro Gwth Acc	138.76	145.80	+ 2.05	..
Euro Spec Opps Acc	138.83	145.80	+ 1.62	..
Extra Inc Inc	218.83	231.37	+ 0.99	4.37
Extra Inc Acc	309.27	326.23	+ 1.40	4.37
FE Emg Econ	72.79	77.02	+ 0.76	0.52
Fixed Int Inc #	28.69	30.17†	+ 0.06	6.58
Frontier Mk Inc	57.53	60.70	+ 0.13	0.50
Fund Of Inv Inc #	205.37	217.31†	+ 0.10	8.67
Fund Of Inv Acc	456.48	483.04	+ 0.22	8.67
Gilt Inc Inc #	53.78	56.06	+ 0.17	0.12
Global Bond Inc	42.77	44.63†	+ 0.12	4.74
Global Inc Inc	34.96	36.79	+ 0.11	3.46
Global Inc Acc	54.68	57.54	+ 0.17	3.46
High Inc Inc	158.58	167.81†	+ 0.74	4.26
High Inc Acc	217.54	230.21	+ 1.02	4.26
Japan Inc	151.31	158.59	- 0.46	..
Latin Amer Inc	46.58	49.26	+ 0.56	0.69
Master Inc Inc	62.85	66.50†	- 0.28	2.59
Master Gwth Inc	59.09	62.52†	- 0.28	0.41
North Amer Inc	270.63	283.42	+ 2.07	..
North Amer Acc	270.95	283.76	+ 2.02	..
Prop Share Inc	77.23	81.72	- 0.06	2.16
Special Sit Inc	163.55	173.06	+ 0.24	1.58
Special Sit Acc	186.34	197.19	+ 0.27	1.58
Tech Inc	968.26	1015.89	+18.87	..
Tech Acc	968.26	1015.89	+18.87	..
UK Blue Chip Inc	124.20	131.07	+ 0.73	2.54
UK Blue Chip Acc	151.93	160.34	+ 0.90	2.54
UK Emg Co Inc	76.40	82.59	- 0.10	1.73
UK Gwth Inc	77.86	82.38†	+ 0.57	1.26
World Port Inc #	95.98	101.10	+ 0.79	1.77

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2255.00	2348.00	+ 3.00	..

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5868

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resdtl Property #	109.90	116.90		5.50

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amity Income	109.19	115.85	- 0.28	2.19
Income Builder Inc	107.10	113.94	- 0.42	2.91

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 526 911

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cntrctd Out Pens	149.10	154.90		..
Founder Pers Pens	83.91	87.17		..

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Sm Cos	466.90	494.70	- 2.05	..
Bond	132.60	139.60†	+ 0.50	5.94
Brit Smlr Cos	99.55	105.90	- 0.29	1.52
Europe	437.60	463.20†	+ 8.40	..
Euro Smlr Cos	126.00	134.00†	+ 0.20	0.25
High Income #	73.26	77.94†	+ 0.05	4.95
Income	432.70	460.30†	- 2.15	3.71
Japan	289.70	306.40†	+ 0.20	..
Latin American	82.61	87.88	+ 0.32	..
Pacific	67.96	72.35	+ 0.48	0.97
UK Smlr Cos	59.44	63.23	- 0.28	0.99
Japanese Sm Cos	500.10	513.70	+ 4.45	..
Mngd Fd	267.70	283.70†	+ 2.00	2.68

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8673

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Brit & Oseas	476.80	504.70	-23.50	0.72
Capital Gwth	181.20	191.70	-12.30	1.98
Wwide Opps	265.60	280.90	-14.30	0.73

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 422 100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cpn Gen Dist	298.20	317.10	+ 2.00	1.05
-do- Income Dist	171.00	181.20†	+ 0.70	2.72
-do- Accum	569.90	624.20†	+ 2.30	2.72
Gilt & Fxd Int	47.95	50.30†	+ 0.24	3.60
Growth Units	361.00	385.60	+ 2.10	1.21
Bond	202.80	213.70	+ 0.60	4.70
Intl Growth	258.80	273.00	+ 1.40	0.12
North American	385.80	409.60	+ 2.50	..
Far East	188.30	201.40	- 0.30	0.65
Uk Smaller Cos	242.00	258.80	+ 1.80	1.31
European	133.10	141.40	+ 1.40	0.14
Japanese Growth	28.88	30.59	+ 0.10	..
High Income	297.60	317.90	+ 1.30	2.77

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7466

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American & Gen	341.40	361.20	+ 4.20	..
European Inc	146.60	155.50	+ 1.60	0.02
Smaller Cos (4-1)	98.61	105.12	+ 0.46	2.72
Growth	724.60	774.10	+ 5.20	1.87
Income & Growth #	595.30	633.30	+ 1.90	4.27
-do- Accum #	968.30	1030.20	+ 2.60	4.27
Japan & Gen	50.36	53.22	+ 0.23	..
Holbrook Gwth	1643.00	1712.00†	+13.80	1.29
-do- Accum	2089.00	2177.00	+17.00	1.29
Special Sits	167.10	177.80	+ 0.90	1.59
High Yield	1932.00	1992.00†	+ 8.00	3.68

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	123.16	130.87	..	2.11
American Portfolio	198.69	210.61	..	0.24
European Portfolio	206.98	220.29	..	0.25
High Income	58.55	61.85†	..	5.94
Japanese Portfolio	46.28	49.01†		
Pacific Portfolio	107.35	115.44		1.78
UK Equity	121.68	129.65	..	1.53
UK Equity & Bd	72.09	76.30		5.33
UK Smr Cos	48.17	51.52		2.34

CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fd Inc	1044.11	1059.88	+40.53	3.27
Inv Fd Acc	1108.01	1122.73	+52.46	..
Fxd Int Sec Inc	176.76	177.46	+ 1.26	7.21
Fxd Int Sec Acc	199.92	200.72	+ 1.42	..

CIS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 283 5900

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Dist	1336.00	1358.00	..	3.24

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	1002.66	1017.82	+37.43	3.42
Investment Acc	4993.70	5069.18	+184.90	..
Fixed Int Inc	142.37	142.95	- 0.26	7.28
Fixed Int Acc	305.69	306.91	- 0.54	..

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 556 8800

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CF Intl Acc	111.01	116.64†		7.39
Cty Fin Fd	39.60	42.80	+ 0.66	..
Acorn Ethical Tst	197.05	209.63		0.58
City Fin Assets	88.52	92.85†		2.25
City Fin Intl	90.53	96.31†	..	..
Friars Hse Cap	387.10	411.81	..	2.22
Buckley Wrld Grth	139.74	148.12	..	
Utilities Fd	102.66	104.77†	+ 0.13	2.04

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	38.30	40.64	- 0.10	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	120.36	128.04	+ 1.18	..
Dragon Growth	44.78	47.89	+ 0.30	1.24
Equity High Inc #	127.01	134.40	+ 0.62	3.85
-do- Accum #	198.75	208.20	+ 0.86	3.85
Extra Income Inc	30.38	32.16	+ 0.19	5.05
Extra Income Acc	37.06	39.23	+ 0.23	5.05
European Gwth	103.86	108.96	+ 1.47	0.04
Evergreen	35.01	37.44	+ 0.33	0.01
General Equity	146.00	154.09	+ 0.76	2
Japan Growth	32.60	34.68	+ 0.11	..
Pedigree Gwth	88.66	94.87	+ 0.35	1.58
Pod Sm Cos Inc	37.52	39.70†	- 0.13	2.26
-do- Accum	40.84	43.21	- 0.14	2.26
Retirement Inc #	34.90	37.13	+ 0.20	4.70
Special Sits	61.80	65.45	+ 0.61	2.48
UK & Overseas	78.40	82.98	+ 0.74	0.32

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01634 890 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	87.94	91.60	+ 0.37	2.51
Capital	107.81	112.30	+ 0.67	1.34
High Income	39.36	41.83†	+ 0.06	6.10
Top 50	84.71	88.23	+ 0.52	1.30

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
01603 686 5018

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	240.38	250.42†	+ 1.62	4.34
Long Gilt	59.68	62.12†	+ 0.70	4.31
Monthly Inc Plus	63.55	66.20	+ 0.23	6.77
-do- Accum	80.98	84.36	+ 0.30	6.77
Preference Share	63.94	66.61†	+ 0.30	5.85
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	181.94	189.54†	+ 0.72	5.34
Managed Fund	95.45	99.44†	+ 0.62	2.46
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	43.55	45.37	+ 0.08	1.39
-do- Accum	52.52	54.71	+ 0.11	1.39
UK & General	134.25	139.86†	+ 0.86	1.99
-do- Accum	182.83	190.47†	+ 1.18	1.99
UK Growth	270.36	281.59	+ 1.72	1.25
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	367.39	382.64	+ 6.50	..
Far Eastern Grth	92.97	96.85	+ 0.18	0.35
Global Bond	76.04	79.21†	+ 0.15	4.84
Japan Growth	84.71	88.25	- 0.05	..
North Amer Grth	372.85	388.43	+ 3.06	..
Oriental Growth	55.06	57.36	+ 0.14	1.14
Worldwide Growth	94.44	98.39	+ 0.80	..
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.19	92.19†	+ 0.01	6.24
Homemaker Fund	111.21	118.32	+ 0.46	1.94

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 556 6800

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Consistent UT	46.30	49.39	+ 1.60	2.69

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 356

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Growth	211.10	224.46†	+ 1.70	2.22
UK Eqty Inc	92.70	98.09	+ 0.57	3.33
European Growth	117.69	124.60	+ 2.00	0.39
UK Spec Sits	220.60	234.90	+ 1.10	1.25

For Co-op Pension see CIS Unit Trust

CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 370

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	104.70	111.00	+ 1.60	..
Fellowship Tst	121.10	128.80	- 0.40	1.04
Income #	367.20	388.80†	+ 1.60	3.56
-do- Accum #	1049.00	1115.00	+ 5.00	3.56
Smaller Cos	211.10	224.50	+ 0.70	0.52
-do- Accum	264.80	281.70	+ 1.00	0.52
Gilt Portfolio	126.90	134.90	+ 0.50	0.94
Mthly Inc Port #	108.66	115.50	+ 0.20	3.38

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 470 1934

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Global Sm Cos	111.31	111.34	- 0.40	0.40
UK Small Cos	789.53	803.12	- 8.52	1.01

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8819

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Disc Inc	269.20	277.60†		2.61

DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD
Dealers 0171 475 7354 Admin/Val 0870 601 0117

For Ely Place see Sarasin

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7281

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Endurance Fd	266.00	283.00	-10.60	1.30

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Recovery ‡	61.86	..	+ 0.22	2.97
Smlr E Asia ‡	161.60	..	+ 0.50	1.29
Special Sits ‡	675.00	..	+ 6.20	1.29
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	128.97	128.97	+ 0.02	6.69

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced #	172.00	173.80	..	1.92
Fleming Pri Inc #	116.80	118.00†	+ 0.70	6.46
Cap Pfolio	218.50	220.10	+ 1.20	0.04
General Opps	182.90	183.70†	..	3.14
Growth Inc	50.45	50.81†	+ 0.17	0.81
Private Portfolio	653.50	659.10	..	1.56

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Dlg 01277 690 380 Admin/Val 01277 690 350

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smllr Cos	229.80	244.00	+ 2.20	..
High Income	22.40	23.77†	+ 0.10	8.41
UK Smlr Cos	30.41	32.52	+ 0.02	2.12
US Smaller Cos	531.50	565.60†	+ 7.00	..

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Growth	143.40	151.60	+ 1.50	..
-do- Accum	143.40	151.60	+ 1.50	..
Amer Smllr Cos	691.60	735.70	+10.30	..
-do- Accum	706.60	752.70	+10.50	..
Capital Tst	381.20	405.60	+ 2.20	1.43
-do- Accum	573.80	610.50	+ 3.30	1.43
Conti Smllr Cos	73.88	78.86	+ 0.34	..
-do- Accum	79.28	84.63	+ 0.36	..
Convertible	155.90	165.90	..	5.77
-do- Accum	369.90	393.50	+ 0.10	5.77
Emerging Markets	39.34	42.03	- 0.03	0.07
-do- Accum	39.68	42.39	- 0.04	0.07
European	238.20	253.40	+ 4.10	..
-do- Accum	254.40	269.50	+ 4.40	..
Extra Income	498.20	530.00	+ 2.30	3.85
-do- Accum	846.00	900.00	+ 3.90	3.85
Financial	275.00	292.60†	+ 2.60	0.66
-do- Accum	295.60	314.50†	+ 3.90	0.66
Gilt Trust	67.86	69.86†	+ 0.37	5.59
-do- Accum	117.50	121.20†	+ 0.70	5.50
Health Fund Inc	242.00	258.00†	+ 1.00	..
-do- Accum	242.00	258.00†	+ 1.00	..
Income & Growth	280.40	298.30†	+ 0.60	3.93
-do- Accum	481.60	512.30†	+ 0.90	3.93
Intl Growth	517.70	550.40†	+ 4.90	..
-do- Accum	574.80	611.10†	+ 5.30	..
Japan & Gen	115.50	122.10	- 0.20	..
-do- Accum	116.70	123.30	- 0.20	..
Monthly Inc #	251.20	267.20†	+ 0.50	4.32
-do- Accum #	270.30	287.60†	+ 0.60	4.32
Managed Port Inc	137.50	144.70	+ 0.70	1.52
-do- Accum	153.20	161.30	+ 1.00	1.52
Quarterly Income #	66.95	71.56†	+ 0.13	4.88
-do- Accum #	84.51	90.33†	+ 0.18	4.88
UK Growth	84.60	90.60†	+ 0.35	1.20
-do- Accum	94.75	100.80†	+ 0.40	1.20

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing 0870 608 0300 Enq 0870 608 0300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FP American	99.86	105.80	+ 0.70	..
FP Am Smllr Cos	207.00	220.60	+ 1.00	..
FP Asian Growth	151.70	161.80	+ 0.50	..
FP Australian	443.70	473.20	+ 1.40	..
FP Equity Dist	621.70	663.10†	+ 0.20	1.49
-do- Accum	1438.00	1534.00		1.49
FP Euro Gth	480.70	512.70	+ 3.40	..
-do- Accum	526.60	561.70	+ 3.70	..
FP Intl Bond	61.18	64.74	+ 0.07	3.65
FP Intl Gth Dist	50.56	53.93†	+ 0.25	..
-do- Accum	74.66	79.63	+ 0.35	..
FP Pac Basn Acc	166.90	178.06†	- 0.30	..
FP Income #	78.64	83.88	+ 0.01	3.62
-do- Accum #	297.60	317.40		3.62
FP Jap Smlr Cos	157.30	167.70	+ 0.50	..
FP Monthly Dist #	91.75	97.86†	+ 0.16	4.39
FP Stg Deposit	100.70	100.70†	- 0.10	5.82
FP Tokyo	63.68	67.92	- 0.56	..
FP Uk Focus	58.53	62.43†	- 0.03	1.83
FP UK Growth	275.40	293.70	- 0.10	1.09
-do- Accum	574.80	612.90	- 0.20	1.09
Stewardship Dis	494.90	527.80†	- 0.10	1.68
-do- Accum	642.80	685.60	- 0.20	1.68
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	81.84	87.28†	- 0.11	4.34
-do- Accum #	124.50	132.80	- 0.20	4.34
Stwdshp Intern	179.20	191.10	+ 0.40	0.16
-do- Accum	193.30	206.10	+ 0.40	0.16
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	136.30	136.90	- 0.50	2.26
Inst Ethical Ac #	141.60	142.30	- 0.50	2.26
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Opps Cap Gth Acc	155.20	165.10	- 0.60	..
Opp Cp Gth Ic Ic #	144.00	153.10	- 0.40	3.03
Opp Cp Gth Ic Ac #	162.50	172.80	- 0.40	3.03

HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS
0800 526 053

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	176.12	184.42†	+ 1.02	1.45
Capital	262.44	274.81	+ 1.69	1.13
Dollar	805.94	844.97†	+ 6.30	..
Enterprise Gth	559.77	586.15	+ 1.28	0.70
European	450.82	471.23	+ 3.72	..
Far East	174.86	183.13	- 0.67	1.38
Financial	1547.13	1620.03	+11.37	1.29
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	30.51	31.73†	+ 0.07	4.87
High Yield	149.27	156.38	+ 0.60	3.89
Income & Growth	224.36	234.94†	+ 1.06	3.43
International	386.22	404.42	+ 3.46	0.66
Japanese General	139.95	146.54	+ 0.64	..
Japan Tech	62.10	65.03	+ 0.43	..
Nat Resources	56.66	59.28	- 0.13	0.96
Portfolio	107.75	112.83	+ 0.44	2.22
Special Sits	268.02	280.65	+ 0.22	1.20
UK Emerging Cos	111.14	116.38	+ 0.02	1.83
US Smaller Cos	163.33	171.03	+ 0.96	..

HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Advisers 0800 181 800 Investors 0800 289 505

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	886.30	924.50	+ 3.30	4.00
UK Growth	957.70	1020.1†	+ 6.00	1.23
High Income #	150.50	160.60†	+ 0.60	5.63
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	954.80	1008	+ 9.00	..
European Gwth	243.50	265.50	+ 3.50	..
Japan Gwth	199.90	211.70†	- 0.10	..
Japan Smlr Cos	18.22	19.34	+ 0.27	..
Asian	34.24	36.54	+ 0.06	0.76
Hong Kong Gwth	139.80	149.20	- 0.20	2.43
Global Bond	21.96	23.15	+ 0.12	4.62
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	231.30	232.50	+ 1.10	2.49
Tech Index	122.60	126.50	+ 0.30	3.05
THE FOOTSIE FUND	98.45	98.93	+ 0.56	1.77
Index Funds-International				
American Index	481.00	483.40	+ 3.30	0.29
Eurotrack 100	314.00	315.60	+ 4.30	0.75
Japan Index	51.40	51.65	+ 0.14	0.31

INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	41.78	43.55	+ 0.06	2.38
General Funds				
Managed Dist	108.90	111.60†	+ 0.70	1.24
Managed	112.30	117.30†	+ 0.80	1.24
Recovery	153.90	160.70	+ 1.00	0.66
UK Growth	88.84	92.57†	+ 0.60	1.37
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	114.70	119.80	+ 0.40	4.27
Gilt & Fixed Int #	30.67	31.69	+ 0.23	5.69
UK Inc & Gwth	84.32	87.17†	+ 0.40	2.28
UK Income #	494.50	516.40†	- 0.60	3.21
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	91.46	94.64	+ 1.05	..
Amer Smlr Cos	190.00	197.70	+ 2.40	..
-do- Accum	182.00	189.00	+ 2.40	..
Europe Gth	402.40	420.30	+ 3.90	..
-do- Accum	416.80	435.30	+ 4.00	..
Euro Smaller Cos	72.18	75.30†	+ 0.55	..
French Growth	149.20	153.60	+ 1.60	0.20
-do- Accum	160.40	165.30	+ 1.90	0.20
H Kong & China	81.12	84.53	+ 0.56	1.99
Intl Growth	84.44	87.82†	+ 0.56	0.02
-do- Accum	86.21	89.67†	+ 0.59	0.02
Japan Gth	19.80	20.64	- 0.02	..
-do- Accum	19.80	20.64	- 0.02	..
Japan Smaller Cos	20.63	21.53	+ 0.07	..
Glob Emg Mkts	60.94	63.64	+ 0.18	0.07
-do- Accum	61.65	64.39	+ 0.17	0.07
SE Asia	180.60	188.60	- 0.20	1.03
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	53.07	54.73†	+ 0.21	5.27

JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Enq 0870 606 6457 Dealing 0870 606 6407

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Income #	154.78	163.79†	+ 0.19	2.46
UK Growth	168.07	174.37†	+ 0.28	1.03
European Gwth	148.83	156.27†	+ 0.80	..
Slater Growth	224.14	237.16	- 0.44	1.75
New Japan	64.75	68.59†	+ 0.11	..
Global Growth	123.46	129.65†	+ 0.93	..
Monthly Inc #	98.45	103.20†	+ 0.13	7.36

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT
0171 536 6000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bridge Income #	400.42	425.98†	+ 2.45	4.66
Ext Growth	128.10	136.26†	..	0.66
Inc & Growth	100.16	106.57	+ 0.55	2.92

LLOYDS TSB UNIT TRUSTS (Other Unit Trusts within Lloyds TSB group; Lloyds Bk Unit Tst Mgrs Ltd; Helpdesk 01634 834330 Dealing 01634 834318)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Wwide Gth Inc	82.38	87.17	+ 0.85	0.69
-do- Accum	83.85	88.74	+ 0.87	0.60
Balanced	558.50	594.20†	+ 6.10	1.81
-do- Accum	1389.00	1469.00	+15.00	1.81
Cont Euro Gth	123.70	130.30†	+ 1.10	0.53
-do- Accum	134.10	141.20	+ 1.20	0.53
Extra Inc #	387.00	411.80†	+ 3.80	3.63
Extra Inc Acc #	1152.09	1226.00	+11.00	3.63
German Gth	217.60	229.10	+ 2.80	..
-do- Accum	228.28	240.30	+ 2.80	..
Growth Port	854.70	909.30	+ 7.40	0.91
-do- Accum	907.50	965.90	+ 7.80	0.91
Income Inc #	784.30	813.10†	+ 7.70	3.19
Income Acc #	2309.00	2457.00	+24.00	3.19
Income Port	737.90	785.10†	+ 9.70	3.57
-do- Accum	892.40	949.40	+11.80	3.57
Master Trust	84.09	89.48	+ 0.67	1.29
-do- Accum	100.50	106.80	+ 0.80	1.29
N American Gen	401.20	426.90	+ 2.50	..
-do- Accum	464.30	494.00	+ 2.80	..
NAm Sml Co Rec	201.10	214.00	+ 0.80	..
-do- Accum	205.20	218.30	+ 0.70	..
Pacific Basin	147.90	157.40	- 0.50	0.71
-do- Accum	159.49	169.60	- 0.70	0.71
Small Cos Rec	468.00	492.70†	+ 0.80	2.58
-do- Accum	670.10	705.40	+ 1.10	2.58
UK Growth	145.50	154.80	+ 1.60	1.58
-do- Accum	187.50	199.50	+ 1.90	1.58
Worldwide Gth	470.40	500.50†	+ 5.00	0.48
-do- Accum	696.30	740.80	+ 7.50	0.48

LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT
01392 282 073

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General	148.50	159.30†	+ 0.23	2.08
Income	97.54	104.70	- 0.18	3.64
International	90.38	96.95	+ 0.43	0.49
Tst of Inv Trusts	85.29	91.51†	+ 0.07	0.64

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD — [illegible]

MORGAN STANLEY DEAN WITTER
Enquiries: 0800 0081 952

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
The Morgan Stanley Dean Witter No-Load Funds				
Cont Equity (I) ‡	#8.411		+0.082	1.62
Cont Equity (A) ‡	#8.385		+0.080	0.92
Glb Equity (I) ‡	#8.539		+0.076	1.06
Glb Equity (A) ‡	954.00		+7.006	0.42
UK Gvt & Inc (I) ‡	#9.224		-0.039	2.51
UK Gvt & Inc (A) ‡	#9.187	..	-0.039	1.85

MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT
0345 390 933

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Growth	79.07	80.40	+ 0.65	
Equity Income #	133.90	137.60		3.49
European ‡	136.90			
Smaller Cos	79.45	84.62†	+ 0.24	1.25
Wwide Eqty	98.95	97.91	+ 0.22	
Global Bond	44.14	44.46†		4.05
UK Growth	140.90	144.40	- 0.20	1.30
Pacific Growth	70.83	71.72	+ 0.21	1.42
Japan Growth ‡	91.41			
OEICS				
Portfolio Acc A ‡	51.93		† + 0.11	2.23
Portfolio Inc A ‡	50.29		† + 0.11	2.23
Gilt Acc A ‡	56.24		† + 0.13	5.69
Gilt Inc A ‡	54.34	..	† + 0.12	5.69

NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 610

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Avon Equity	206.27	219.44	+ 1.54	1.69

NPI INVESTMENT MGRS
0171 623 4200

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Americas Dist	177.30	186.60	+ 2.00	..
European Dist	237.40	249.80†	+ 3.30	..
Far East Dist	119.50	125.80	- 0.10	..
Global Care Dist	112.00	117.90	+ 0.60	0.61
Oseas Dist	1227.90	1292.50	+ 9.80	..
-do- Accum	1800.80	1895.10	+12.80	..
UK Dist	579.50	610.80†	+ 2.90	1.56
-do- Accum	1219.80	1284.00	+ 6.10	1.56
UK Extra Inc Dist	124.70	131.30	+ 0.10	1.60
Wwide Dist	136.50	145.80†	+ 1.40	0.84
Wwide Inc Dist	107.69	113.36†	+ 1.03	2.30

NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
Dlg: 0870 601 0147 Admin Enq: 0870 603 0123

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Europe Inc	127.74	134.82	+ 2.10	0.87
Fund of Funds Inc	83.08	87.66	+ 1.33	1.37
North America Inc ‡				
UK Equity Grth Inc	90.99	96.03†		1.21
-do- Accum	102.14	107.80	- 0.01	1.21
UK General Inc	90.04	95.03†	+ 0.56	0.76
-do- Accum	103.50	109.23	+ 0.64	0.76
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc	53.73	56.59†	+ 0.26	5.30
UK Income Inc	87.60	92.45†	+ 0.43	1.68
UK Smlr Cos Inc	116.66	123.12	- 4.90	2.26

NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 0500 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	71.54	76.10†	+ 0.29	..
-do- Accum	72.10	76.70†	+ 0.29	..
Intl Bond	149.24	158.38	+ 1.11	3.98
Cash Income	50.18	50.18†	+ 0.01	6.81
-do- Accum	76.76	76.78†	+ 0.01	6.81
Challenger	104.61	110.05†	+ 1.05	0.74
Distributor	142.62	151.72	- 0.77	2.15
European	108.40	115.31	+ 1.19	0.57
Exmt H-L Gilt	115.36	115.46	+ 0.69	2.32
Foundation	137.02	145.76	- 1.53	1.30
Exempt Global	109.46	110.51	+ 0.72	2.50
Managed Inc	289.61	308.09	+ 1.83	1.56
Managed Acc	298.25	317.28	+ 1.67	1.56
Growth Inc	179.01	190.43†	+ 1.05	1.17
Growth Acc	188.61	200.64†	+ 1.16	1.17
Higher Income Inc #	46.20	49.14	+ 0.25	4.09
-do- Accum #	60.90	64.78	+ 0.33	4.09
High Yield Bond #	104.50	109.48†	+ 0.69	7.42
Income	405.91	431.81†	+ 6.61	1.97
Intrepid	182.19	189.78†	+ 1.24	2
Intl Gwth	50.33	53.54	+ 0.56	..
Japan	23.81	25.32	- 0.02	..
Oriental Inc	104.89	111.58	+ 0.57	..
-do- Accum	109.56	116.55	+ 0.60	..

NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD
0191 285 2555

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income #	57.17	57.91†		5.68

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WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 298 4000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Mgd	74.87	79.50	+ 0.79	1.51
UK Stockmarket	141.10	150.10	+ 1.30	1.80
Corporate Bd Inc	52.42	52.53	+ 0.04	4.66
-do- Accum	55.62	59.76	+ 0.06	4.66

Source FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return) † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. .. No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital. @ Exit charge.

THE TIMES FRIDAY
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
BANKS
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST
BUILDING MATERIALS
CHEMICALS
CONSTRUCTION
DISTRIBUTORS
ENGINEERING

هكذا من الأصل

Equities and gilts surge ahead

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
430	355	Allied Domecq	[illegible]			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
496	432	Diageo	[illegible]			
950	585	[illegible]	[illegible]			
325	225	[illegible]	[illegible]			
242	175	[illegible]	[illegible]			
59	18	[illegible]	[illegible]			
2021	725	[illegible]	[illegible]			

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1618½	893	ABN Amro	[illegible]			
1350	850	Abbey Nat	[illegible]			
1032	565	Alliance & Leic	[illegible]			
1000	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
459½	292	[illegible]	[illegible]			
603½	333	[illegible]	[illegible]			
813	427	Bank Scotland	[illegible]			
1996	937	Barclays	[illegible]			
1333	385	[illegible]	[illegible]			
2450	1565	Commerzbank	[illegible]			
543	218	[illegible]	[illegible]			
5365	2599	Deutsche Bk	[illegible]			
1200	1131	[illegible]	[illegible]			
551	112	[illegible]	[illegible]			
2973	950	HSBC	[illegible]			
2002	937	[illegible]	[illegible]			
1000	635	Halifax	[illegible]			
935	537	[illegible]	[illegible]			
1050	565	Lloyds TSB	[illegible]			
925	667	[illegible]	[illegible]			
1244	691	Nat West	[illegible]			
673	451	[illegible]	[illegible]			
1140	561	Ryl Bk Scot	[illegible]			
1050	555	Stand Chart	[illegible]			
£164	£164	Wells Fargo	[illegible]			
433	336	[illegible]	[illegible]			
45	300	Woolwich	[illegible]			

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
332	225	[illegible]	[illegible]			
1195	625	Bass	[illegible]			
81	58	[illegible]	[illegible]			
197	128	[illegible]	[illegible]			
162	60	[illegible]	[illegible]			
700	250	Compass Gp	[illegible]			
242	134	[illegible]	[illegible]			
384	220	[illegible]	[illegible]			
552	425	[illegible]	[illegible]			
538	283	Greenall Gp	[illegible]			
760	507	Greene King	[illegible]			
358	168	Groupe Chez Gerard	[illegible]			
281	204	Hardy Hanson	[illegible]			
2175	1525	Holt J	1510			
76	35	Inn Business	[illegible]			
317	225	Marston	230	- 2	4.4	8.9
360	160	Mitchells & Butlers	[illegible]			
472	342	Morland	[illegible]			
384	198	Old Eng Publ	[illegible]			
35	18	Paramount	19			
950	562	PizzaExpress	620	+ 5	0.6	30.9
377	160	Ramsdens (H)	160		3.9	16.8
389	108	Regent Inns	113	+ 5	4.1	8.9
237	106	SFI	145	+ 5	1.0	18.5
950	653	Scot & New	733	+ 17	4.0	14.0
303	139	Slug & Lettuce	172		4.6	21.6
361	199	Vaux Group	246		5.7	10.2
342	145	Wetherspoon JD	202	+ 1	1.4	20.4
1145	690	Whitbread	825	+ 35	4.0	14.5
568	363	Wolverhmptn D	425	- 5	6.2	8.2
558	208	Yates Bros	319	- 9	1.4	18.0
827	557	Young A	640		3.2	20.0

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
76	49	Aggregate Inds	73	+ 3	2.8	22.3
268	180	Anglian Group	220	+ 3	5.9	10.6
447	195	BPB	217		5.3	9.5
118	68	Baggeridge Bk	76		5.9	8.3
62	29	Blockleys	30		1.5	
407	235	Blue Circle	312	+ 7	4.7	11.0
149	74	Breedon PLC	86		8.7	9.2
945	644	CRH	908	- 6	1.2	22.6
62	42	Caradon Roy	54		8.7	4.6
155	94	Cape	94		8.9	7.3
215	100	Caradon	105		9.7	8.5
116	93	Caradon pfl	95		9.5	
130	44	Checkin Gp	49		10.9	3.6
106	53	Dyson (J&J)	74		10.1	5.9
60	32	Ennstone	34			21.6
197	115	Epwin	121		10.3	6.3
158	101	Gibbs & Dandy	132		3.9	10.3
200	107	Graham Grp	131	- 1	5.8	11.1
282	157	Halstead (J)	177	- 2	7.2	9.9
480	245	Hanson	466	- 10	3.2	14.7
265	134	Hepworth	168	+ 6	6.7	47.2
178	96	Hewetson	139	- 1	7.3	6.6
294	187	Heywd Wms	212	- 1	8.1	7.4
66	37	Ibstock	58		5.0	11.5
365	250	Johnston	285	+ 2	5.4	10.2
107	59	Lilleshall	74		7.9	19.9
129	64	Marley	98	+ 13	7.5	6.8
162	105	Marshalls	132	+ 1	3.8	8.1
445	244	Meyer Int	349	+ 17	4.9	18.1
77	44	Norcros	45		5.4	7.6
149	53	Pilkington	66	+ 2	7.7	48.9
24	9	Pilkingtons	10			12.3
156	94	Polypipe	117		8.4	
1400	601	RMC Grp	789	+ 3	4.5	11.5
117	72	Redland	81	+ 3	7.5	8.9
143	72	Rugby Group	89	- 1	5.7	10.2
103	65	Ruscoe (A)	68		5.7	8.8
276	88	SIG	148		6.8	7.3
3	1	SWP	1			
237	119	Sharpe & Fisher	153	+ 1	5.3	9.0
25	6	Spring Ram	6	-	1.9	3.6
133	75	Tarmac	109	+ 5	6.6	12.1
125	72	Tilon	80		8.3	8.0
628	379	Travis Perkins	437	- 14	3.3	12.6
107	60	Tudor	60		7.2	5.9
372	164	Ultraframe	198		2.2	16.7
570	253	Wolseley	387	- 1	4.1	11.6

CHEMICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
191	69	Albright & Wil	83		8.6	6.5
142	77	Amber Ind	128		5.6	10.8
118	60	Amberley Gp	79		2.9	12.2
100	47	Allhane Es	62		1.6	8.0
3153	2003	BASF DM	2331	- 3	3.1	
1109	680	BOC	900	+ 16	3.9	49.0
581	314	BTP	386		4.0	17.3
26	8	Banner Chem	10	+ 1	15.8	4.3
3221	2109	Bayer DM50	2490	+ 3	2.4	
193	137	Blagden	176		2.1	11.8
126	77	Brent Chems	85		4.1	11.9
342	197	Br Vita	232		4.8	10.0
1340	754	Burmah Castrl	885	+ 30	3.1	13.3
296	148	Canning (W)	295		3.9	14.7
239	155	Cly Technology	204		3.2	
469	204	Croda	267		3.9	15.3
370	203	Doeflex	370		3.0	14.9
178	77	Elementis	96	-	2.1	12.5
313	165	Ellis & Everard	217	+ 11	6.1	8.9
78	53	Euro Colour	61	-	5.3	9.8
94	38	Hickson	60		2.7	8.9
3216	2096	Hoechst	2675	+ 16	2.0	
1244	412	ICI	592	+ 12	5.4	23.5
352	189	Inspec	343		2.5	16.8
193	92	Kalon	90		8.6	15.1
890	386	Laporte	522	+	5.0	10.5
75	26	Mercalem	43		6.9	4.1
35	18	Metroect	19		9.2	4.9
380	125	Porvair	161	+ 16	5.0	8.9
231	100	Scapa	107	- 2	7.2	7.6
2152	1437	Takeda Chem	2133	+ 41	0.5	46.4
248	115	Victrex	188	+ 1	3.3	15.0
686	480	Wistmbne R	495	- 2	6.9	7.6
240	100	Yorks Grp	120	- 4	10.0	9.8
440	208	Yule Catto	280	- 2	4.6	10.7

CONSTRUCTION

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
58	19	AAF Inds	50	-		6.4
375	220	Abbey	225		4.5	7.8
480	293	Allen	325	- 7	4.6	11.8
217	114	Amec	175	+ 5	3.8	14.3
875	400	Amey	660		2.2	17.8
260	130	Andrews Sykes	162	+ 7	2.5	15.2
286	117	Ashtead	165	+	1.7	17.4
48	28	Avonside	37		5.9	5.9
45	35	Bandt	30		6.2	6.8
341	155	Barratt Devs	223	+ 3	5.6	8.2
235	128	Beazer	171	+ 1	5.3	8.5
401	227	Bellway	285	+	4.6	7.4
95	46	Ben Bailey	52		6.0	5.1
784	461	Berkeley Gp	495	- 11	2.6	8.2
170	113	Bett Bros	144		6.7	
315	175	Bool (Henry)	175	- 5	6.2	6.4
276	157	Bovis Homes	210	- 3	5.6	8.5
42	30	Britannia Grp	35		5.7	5.3
155	76	Bryant	85		7.7	6.5
129	95	CALA	95		5.8	5.8
141	83	Clarke T	95		8.7	5.7
42	15	Costain	16	-		
125	65	Countryside	76	-	5.3	6.0
145	80	Crest Nicholson	99		5.1	6.5
122	68	Cussins	78		7.4	5.0
288	160	Eve Group	211	+ 1	4.1	11.9
105	79	Fairview Hldgs	76		6.6	5.5
23	15	Galliford	17		8.0	7.3
1100	650	Gleeson (MJ)	812		3.1	10.6
175	30	Havelock Europ	33		17.7	4.1
212	136	Hewden-Stuart	137	+ 3	3.5	15.1
35	16	Howard Hldgs	34		0.7	
788	369	Jarvis	683	+ 11	1.5	25.8
252	140	Keller	182		3.5	12.1
250	189	Kier	216	- 1	4.6	9.6
397	252	Laing (J)	287		4.7	10.9
137	107	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	110		7.3	
15	8	Lovell (YJ)	12			
212	155	Maunders (J)	209		3.8	12.1
181	106	McAlpine (A)	131		7.3	7.1
191	110	McCarthy & S	134		4.3	
142	70	McInerney	117		1.1	13.3
253	168	Morgan Sindall	187	+ 1	3.8	9.0
397	256	Morrison Cons	340	+ 5	2.2	16.2
150	77	Mowlem (J)	97	- 1	5.8	8.7
259	138	Persimmon	174		7.3	7.5
109	74	Peterhouse	68		5.8	6.2
139	106	Pochin	106		4.1	12.6
158	94	Prowting	96	- 1	6.2	5.4
198	124	Redrow	162	+ 1	3.1	10.4
325	222	Spandex	317		1.5	18.3
94	48	Swan Hill	43	+ 2	8.3	6.9
142	107	Tay Homes	110		8.9	7.4
238	133	Taylor Woodrw	182		3.2	10.6
308	190	Tilbury Dougls	239		5.1	13.9
29	14	Try Group	15		7.7	4.7
88	58	Vibroplant	59	- 1	8.7	28.0
139	90	Wainhomes	100	- 3	6.0	7.7
60	25	Ward Hldgs	25		10.8	
272	145	Westbury	194	+ 1	4.9	7.9
35	10	Wiggins	10			18.5
191	108	Wilson (C)	119		5.9	8.2
733	491	Wilson Bowden	539		3.0	10.2
143	90	Wimpey G	116		6.2	8.0

DISTRIBUTORS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
257	165	Acton Cp Spls	202	- 2	1.9	
355	140	Adam & Harvey	145		15.7	3.4
24	9	Alexanders	15			18.3
3	1	Ass Br Eng	1			9.9
457	300	BSS Group	316		8.7	7.1
110	41	Bawnes (Charles)	49		8.2	
20	7	Bearing Power	9			
35	27	Bogod A	30		4.5	4.5
735	304	Brammer	317	-	6.9	7.3
16	8	Bridgend Gp	8		2.9	
113	65	Bnd Fittings	73	+ 1	8.7	7.3
372	280	Callyns	280		6.4	9.5
206	1	Car Group	5			0.7
175	126	Caverdale	133		4.2	8.5
54	28	Cook (DC)	28		10.7	5.9
177	96	Dag Motors	170	+ 2	6.6	8.3
125	97	Dawsons El	104		3.6	6.9
276	142	Dalotma	156	- 7	12.4	
601	300	Electrocomponts	435	+ 10	2.7	27.8
186	70	Eurotho Elec	95		7.4	10.9

(continued column)

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	49	[illegible]	51	3	15.8	4.5
[illegible]	111	[illegible]	161		13.2	5.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	61		7.7	6.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	99	4	11.6	3.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	75		4.5	12.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	53	1	4.3	7.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	109		4.2	9.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	14		7.6	7.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	229		4.1	11.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	102		8.0	5.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	41		10.2	5.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	178	- 2	9.4	15.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	19		8.4	3.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	Mid Lynx	21		7.6	6.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	Narwhan	210		5.6	10.4
132	143	Northumbert	180	- 1	7.9	10.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	167	6	6.8	10.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	145		6.6	6.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	120		9.7	5.0
442	128	[illegible]	165		7.6	8.0
164	[illegible]	Quarto Group	66		15.9	4.3
[illegible]	75	[illegible]	75		5.3	18.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]			
[illegible]	21	[illegible]	31		6.5	12.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		8.4	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	75		7.5	5.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	145		11.0	7.0
290	132	Sandhurst Brm	132	1	5.3	4.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	Sedgwick	33	2	7.6	8.1
[illegible]	126	[illegible]	133		5.5	5.1
[illegible]	107	Time Products	68		20.2	4.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	Toad Mdsr Grp	227		1.4	4.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	UNS CO	140		2.7	14.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	United Drugs Co	19		7.8	4.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	Vaitry (Hrg)	178		5.8	7.5
540	155	WT Fect	795		2.8	20.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	Wyan	70	1	6.2	5.9
165	95	Young (H)	96		6.1	6.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
320	160	Amalgamated	181	- 6	3.9	12.0
642	406	Brown (M)	492	- 11	4.0	
43	9	Energy Ins	15		8.2	4.5
570	223	Brit Amer Tob	547	- 3	5.1	11.4
227	177	Caradi	206		8.4	
613	335	DCL	525		2.0	17.0
475	307	Galtizer	433	+ 6	4.7	14.5
469	335	Hutch Whamp	460	1	2.5	26.2
697	385	Imperial Tob	650	+ 5	4.2	15.6
335	93	Jardine Math	717	+ 1	7.3	9.8
94	42	Lonrho Africa	65	- 1	4.4	16.4
643	360	Powell Duffryn	441		7.2	10.0
112	79	Staveley	84		13.7	15.6
568	158	Swire Pacific	285	+	4.3	
393	215	Tomkins	272	+ 5	5.0	11.3
250	160	Unigate	180		10.2	
570	305	Wassell Storeys	352		7.8	8.2
381	166	Wassall	227	- 3	3.5	13.7
125	30	Whitecroft	61	+ 4	9.7	

ELECTRICITY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
680	310	Br Energy	665	+ 20	2.8	31.5
460	291	National Grid	468	- 3	3.3	22.0
700	470	National Power	533	- 5	6.1	11.5
901	701	PowerGen	850	+ 6	4.4	12.9
731	502	Hydro-Elect	715	+ 1	3.4	15.9
711	475	Scottish Power	650	+ 10	4.1	15.5
740	467	Southern Elec	716	- 1	4.1	18.5
724	512	Yorkshire	724	+ 1	3.9	14.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1325	715	ARM Holdings	1090			
410	233	Acal	295		4.6	10.4
1492	592	Admiral	947	+ 25	0.4	43.8
58	27	Amstradt	35	-		17
35	25	Arlen	29		5.6	40.6
129	36	Astec	84		1.5	9.4
77	33	Azlan	57			
182	36	BICC	64	- 2	15.6	
460	260	Bitek	386	+ 9	4.7	12.6
604	306	Bowthorpe	416	- 2	3.5	15.4
16	9	Bulgin A	12		12.3	10.7
205	80	CML Micro	83		10.5	7.4
11	3	Channel Hldgs	7		9.2	5.0
51	36	Chloride	51	+ 1	2.6	13.9
912	445	Chubb	575		3.1	13.7
342	98	Delta	127	- 2	12.5	6.1
451	392	Domino	405		3.9	13.8
77	38	Dowding Mills	42	- 2	8.8	12.0
320	240	Druck	287		0.8	25.6
1250	658	Electrolux B	934	+ 34	9.9	25.3
28	17	Emess	20	+	3.6	17.1
2006	903	Ericsson B	1678	+ 84	0.8	37.1
590	230	Farey Group	305	-	4.2	10.3
587	380	Filtronic	531		0.5	31.2
18	7	Forward Tech	15			
577	338	GEC	505	+ 11	2.8	21.7
49	14	Ind Control	15			
22	14	Intelek	14		8.0	11.2
215	139	Jasmin	146			7.0
92	48	LPA	62		4.7	20.1
1004	421	Misys	440	+		
555	235	NXT	368	+ 19		
180	30	Network Tech	32		5.0	3.7
372	162	Oxford Inst	212	+ 8	4.6	10.7
111	23	Pace Micro	79	-	0.6	
6271	2563	Philips Lmp nv	3925	+ 71	1.6	13.6
98	38	Plasmon	75			
311	165	Pressac	178	- 4	3.3	10.9
60	13	Prestwick	17		2.9	
725	204	Psion	480		0.7	46.0
437	243	Racal Elect	311	- 4	2.4	
97	39	Radamec	45		7.6	8.7
505	329	Renishaw	366		3.4	16.6
1	0	Rodime	0			
292	157	Roxboro	217		4.3	10.3
377	95	Servomex	100	+ 1	11.9	6.0
59	31	Silverminos	33		5.7	6.3
5346	3343	TDK	5068	- 162	0.6	23.5
72	45	TEI	52		8.9	5.8
184	86	TLG	174		2.6	31.4
48	5	Tadpole Tech	9	+ 1		
67	27	Telemetrix	52		3.8	
365	33	Telspec	41	- 2	0.3	5.9
158	109	Thorpe FW	137		4.8	6.4
159	42	Total Systems	80	+	3.4	8.8
18	5	Ultima Networks	5			
40	13	Vigion Technology	23		4.8	9.4
680	430	Volex	491	+ 3	5.5	11.6

ENGINEERING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
312	87	AIM	117		4.8	
2125	1112	ALSTOM	1400			15.2
44	16	ASW	17			
255	96	Alumasc	96	- 5	11.0	5.4
227	129	Alvis	175	+ 2	2.5	9.2
385	207	Ascot	256		5.5	9.4
176	114	Ash & Lacy	117		8.4	5.9
125	23	Austinc Metal	38		6.3	3.8
535	285	BBA	342	- 2	2.4	12.8
230	91	BTR	124	- 1	7.8	16.4
97	40	BWI	54	- 1	9.8	4.7
92	48	Babcock	66	+ 1	2.9	8.4
13	6	Bailey (CH)	7		4.2	
27	2	Beaufort	4		14.7	
261	155	Bertsford	192	+ 3	5.1	6.8
109	72	Bersfd Cs Un Ln	85	+ 2	5.9	
1285	677	Bodycote	890		1.4	18.5
54	35	Booth Inds	40			18.0
141	75	Bullport	83		7.8	6.8
587	300	Br Aerospace	501	+ 4	1.3	18.4
172	92	Br Steel	106	+ 5	11.7	9.4
158	71	Brooke Indl	91	- 1	7.2	4.8
16	4	Brunel	6	- 1	9.1	
107	67	Bullough	69		10.5	6.5
36	10	Cabot	11		11.3	55.7
217	87	Carclo Eng	89	- 3	15.4	4.5
233	165	Castings	199		3.7	10.9
272	172	Chamberlin Hill	197		6.1	7.2
780	273	Charter	291	+ 7	10.8	10.8
175	109	Chemring	116		3.2	
275	48	Clyde Blowers	166		5.2	12.2
1247	565	Cobham	830	+ 12	2.1	19.9
430	105	Cohen (A)	145			
279	96	Cookson	129	- 2	7.3	7.7
290	151	David Brown	287		2.7	15.5
32	16	Elecol	17		1.8	7.7
50	16	Energy Tech	27		6.9	
20	11	Europower	11	-	10.0	7.2
161	100	Expamet	118		4.3	9.9
228	101	FKI	137	- 3	6.0	8.2
216	100	Fenner	103		5.4	
3	1	Fenun	2			17.8
40	16	Firth Hldgs	22	-	1.6	21.2
182	76	Firth Rixson	82	+ 1	4.5	8.4
45	7	Flare	8			
116	58	GB Int	63	+	7.3	5.3
206	146	Garton Engl	151		6.8	5.1
331	140	Glynwed	172	- 1	9.6	7.2
159	46	Haden MacLn	46		8.6	4.7
255	140	Hadleigh	142		6.6	6.4
257	88	Hall Eng	96	- 1	10.8	4.1
140	96	Halma	121	- 1	2.9	14.7
83	47	Hampson Ind	54		6.1	8.6
65	32	Hay (Norman)	43		5.2	8.2
63	29	Headway	34		7.4	4.5
715	30	Hill & Smith	38		13.6	9.5
532	235	IMI	267	- 3	5.4	8.6
652	363	Johnson Matth	387	+ 5	4.7	8.3
28	7	Jones Stroud	8		7.8	7.7
435	250	Kelsey Ind	282		12.8	4.5
418	277	Laird	286	+ 5	5.5	8.2
23	17	Locker	17		7.0	5.1
27	16	MS Intl	18		5.1	6.7
508	208	Mang Bronze	220	- 1	6.0	11.4
569	247	McKechnie	341		7.6	7.6
179	90	McLeod Russel	100		8.2	
242	121	Meggitt	130		4.6	12.6
115	82	Metalrax	95		5.8	12.5
14	3	MetalTech	3			43.4
357	107	Molins	117		15.0	
501	261	Morgan Crucl	310		6.4	9.7
608	45	Powerscreen	130	- 1	3.2	
230	138	Quadramatic	153	+ 1	8.9	
52	20	Quadrant Grp	42			
60	50	Radiant Metal	50			
290	132	Renold	159		5.6	7.3
87	25	Richardsons West	35		15.8	4.0
309	176	Rolls-Royce	245	+ 2	3.1	19.7
387	267	Rotork	315		3.9	19.3
246	140	Rubicon	330		3.8	13.7
1425	581	SKF B	825	+ 9	4.7	8.2
248	107	Senior Engl	125	+ 2	3.5	10.5
612	162	Serflo-Rve	247		5.7	6.7
395	183	Siebe	213	- 6	2.0	13.3
148	61	Sa Hendred	67	-	10.4	
1020	615	Smiths Inds	855	+ 16	2.9	17.7
18	6	Solvera	8		4.2	
706	407	Spirax-Sarco	525		3.8	20.1
570	205	Sterling Ind	235		5.9	11.0
650	300	TI	360	+ 20	4.6	11.5
121	61	Tinsley (E)	64		12.4	5.5
67	33	TransTec	33	- 4	10.8	4.1
383	198	TT Group	218		5.3	8.0
475	302	Ultra Elect	332	- 1	2.8	15.4
76	39	Unit Inds	46		6.9	7.8
252	137	Victors Grp	184	+ 7	6.4	17.4
11	7	Villiers Grp	8			
767	468	Vitec	534		3.4	9.7
900	560	Vosper Thorny	798		4.6	11.3
402	180	Weagon	182	+ 2	7.5	3.9
314	161	Weir	223	- 2	5.2	10.1
185	77	Wellington Hdg	92		11.2	7.0
89	30	Westcott	39		6.1	7.1
930	730	Whatman	762	- 12	2.7	18.4
60	29	Wilney	30	+	14.6	3.3

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
156	62	Adwest	73	-	10.6	5.5
223	115	Airflow Streaml	133		7.5	12.2
701	393	Avon Rubber	413		5.2	8.2
345	175	Brasport	183	- 1	5.2	6.3
193	102	Bulcat	121	- 1	3.3	12.4
509	251	Deomec	470		2.6	21.5
413	271	First Tech	318	- 1	2.0	19.1

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
900	520	BOC	898	+ 23	2.2	16.7
4671	2893	General Mill	4331	- 12	2.8	
611	381	Hooly	437		4.7	11.0
2400	1444	Honda Motor	2236	- 48	0.4	16.1
480	133	Laird	140	-	9.8	4.8
298	168	LucasVarity	203	+ 1	3.9	17.3
244	118	Mayflower	134		2.7	12.1
136	95	Sytner	101	-	8.2	7.4
31	17	Toad	22	- 1		
304	85	Torotrak	103			
51	32	Wilshire	48	+ 1	2.6	14.0
670	455	AB Food	670	+ 8	1.9	20.6
270	115	Acatos & Hutch	143		5.7	
37	6	Albert Fisher	7			4.9
285	156	Banks (S C)	206		7.0	9.6
513	378	Barr (AG)	445		4.2	9.4
45	32	Bertram Grp	40	+	5.2	8.5
360	59	Booker	67	+ 2	7.8	3.5
1077	571	Bulle Bros	685		2.1	16.7
125	85	CPL Aromas	93	- 13	6.6	9.9
992	600	Cadbury-Schw	905	- 17	2.0	23.7
102	62	Cans Milling	79		8.1	
192	105	Coca Cola Bev	127	-		
345	210	Dalgety	248	- 6	5.0	11.3
471	253	Dairy Crest Group	365		3.9	17.4
67	32	Dalepak 5	33		2.6	10.4
545	184	Devro	191	- 4	6.3	8.4
168	111	Express Dairies	151	- 4	6.8	11.2
142	65	Finlay (James)	75	+	5.8	5.7
611	394	Geest	408	- 3	3.3	15.9
15	8	Glohaly	12		7.8	22.4
390	195	Greencore	366		3.3	14.6
240	124	Hazlewood Fds	139	+ 5	6.5	10.3
214	70	Hillsdown	77		3.6	
174	86	Matthews (B)	107		5.2	19.4
20	13	NRI	15	-	2.9	6.3
227	148	Nichols (V)	156		6.4	8.4
240	130	Nom Foods	138	6	5.9	12.0
225	66	PIC Intl	95		6.3	9.9
57	21	Pascoes	21			
160	82	Perkins Food	140	+ 3	3.3	14.8
88	38	Plant & Gen	39			
92	42	Sentry Farm	65		5.8	
40	19	Sims Food	36		0.7	7.4
583	288	Tate & Lyle	397	- 5	4.4	15.2
143	93	Terranova	96		5.2	10.7
167	108	Treatt	121		6.3	9.4
738	427	Unigate	488	- 3	5.8	10.4
741	346	Unilever	641	+ 11	1.7	26.4
5853	3350	Unilever (NV)	4853	+ 46	1.5	12.5
300	180	Utd Biscuits	241	1	5.9	16.5
62	44	WT Foods	52		3.6	17.5

HEALTHCARE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
134	40	AdvancedMedicine A	42			
602	318	Alnce UniChem	588	+ 12	2.1	25.0
170	135	Assoc Nursg	140		3.6	13.2
1025	693	Bespak	859	+ 2	2.0	21.7
525	61	Biocompos Ind	94	- 2		
245	144	Care UK	206	- 1	0.8	22.2
88	21	Celsis	28			
550	389	Community Ht	432		3.8	14.4
37	26	CrestaCare	30		4.2	16.9
18	7	Enviromed	9			43.9
164	122	Ferraris Group	145		3.2	10.8
172	127	Gyrus	136			
243	141	Huntigh Tec	233		1.7	25.3
95	51	Intercare Gp	61		8.3	19.6
593	495	Kalton	550		1.6	17.6
231	145	Lon Intl	205	- 3	1.6	31.9
390	190	Nestor Hlth	388		1.3	36.2
532	313	Nycomed Amrsh	403	+ 15	1.3	22.0
5	5	Premier Health	5			
11	4	Regina	4			
867	501	Seton Scholl	866	+ 1	1.5	
810	280	Shield Grp	540	- 10		
320	97	Sinclair Mdnl	98	-	0.3	35.8
194	127	Smith & Nephw	170	+ 5	3.6	17.1
110	31	Tamaris	41		10.5	7.1
412	215	West Hithcare	245	- 27	3.6	17.9

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
177	64	Airsprung	65	- 2	14.2	3.4
230	165	Alba	178		4.6	9.4
85	45	Albam	55		7.5	6.4
185	81	Alexander	102	- 1	8.5	7.3
187	78	Allied Textile	107	+ 4	10.0	6.9
29	7	Armour	11		2.2	
205	100	BLP Group	102		9.5	3.7
285	100	Baird (Wm)	113		12.1	5.2
53	38	Bisbon Birsrs	38		2.4	
149	87	Black Arrow	87	- 4	7.3	6.7
421	232	Black (Peter)	285		3.1	14.9
97	74	Brunh Mabuls	81		6.1	
86	13	Claremont Gar	18			
100	25	Coats Viyella	25	-	9.8	
182	69	Cornwell Prir Sp	78		6.4	5.2
368	140	Courtaulds Txt	154		12.4	5.9
33	4	Creighton	8			
13	2	Dalyean	3	+	13.2	
68	12	Dawson	13		10.6	
167	90	Denby Group	95		6.2	6.9
267	85	Dewhirst	94	- 1	7.2	5.7
47	9	Drummond Group	12		5.2	25.8
130	59	Eclipse Blinds	60	- 6	7.8	5.1
42	16	Elted	20	-	7.5	6.3
131	35	FII Group	37		16.7	2.7
34	20	Faupel Trading	28	+ 2	9.3	6.5
11	7	Foster (J)	11			
41	24	French	24			
125	78	Gaskell	86		4.0	5.3
78	39	Haggas (J)	57		7.6	
13	8	Hartstone Group	10		2.0	11.2
257	82	Hicking Pentecost	92		11.6	5.6
4	2	Holtas Group	2			
18	10	Honeysuckle Grp	14			
102	62	Honce Small	65			
405	130	IMP Intl	190		3.3	8.5
25	9	Jacques Vert	13			
320	135	Jones Stroud	150	+ 2	10.1	5.9
72	39	Jourdan (T)	41		3.8	
160	80	Kenwood App	124	+		18.7
250	143	Lambert Howarth	147	+ 1	7.6	5.3
152	30	Lamont Hldgs	55	- 2	29.1	3.5
123	37	Leeds Group	52		16.8	3.8
17	7	Leslie Wise	9		14.7	
16	3	Lionheart	4		13.3	3.2
90	45	Lyles (S)	47		8.2	4.3
210	142	McBride	161		5.8	11.1
138	40	Maybom	61	- 1	10.9	7.6
650	325	Osborne & Little	380		8.8	6.4
4	1	PEX Group	2		3.6	
126	20	Parkland Group	31		0.4	
475	356	Paterson Zoch	375		6.2	
425	315	Paterson Zch At	330		7.0	7.3
129	75	Pentland Group	98		4.8	14.7
203	165	Pifco	180		4.2	9.2
60	29	Pizzards	34		12.7	
44	23	Readicut Intl	25		12.6	
1300	821	Reckitt Colmt	849	+ 5	2.9	16.7
620	280	Relyon	298		6.5	8.7
36	10	Richards	11			
227	75	Royal Doulton	82	- 1	15.2	7.4
32	20	SEET	23			11.7
47	26	Sherwood Group	38		11.8	10.0
126	87	Shiloh	125		4.2	65.6
285	165	Silentnight	187		8.0	7.1
70	51	Sirdar	58	+	12.2	7.0
53	21	Stirling Group	22		13.9	4.2
16	3	Stoddard Intl	6	-	7.5	
252	83	Stoves	85	- 1	9.4	5.9
278	54	Swallowfield	56	- 5	15.5	3.4
206	125	Toothknsons	130		11.8	
142	105	Usher (F)	107		12.9	5.3
80	60	Victoria	68		6.4	4.7
165	67	Vyaura	76		9.0	5.5
75	40	Walker Greenbk	51		5.8	18.4
105	48	Wirland Widgewll	56		2.5	15.9
100	59	Wensum	79		8.0	6.2
195	130	Wood (Arthur)	130		5.8	10.3
140	77	Yorkyarl	77	-	6.2	20.8

INSURANCE

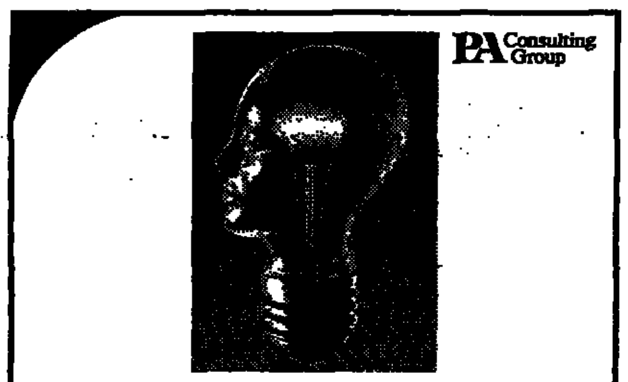
1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
881	478	Allied Zurich	846	+ 18	1.3	0.6
4606	3143	Axa Gen	4400	- 12	2.1	
149	96	Amlin	113		13.3	7.1
4550	3065	Aon Corpn	3565	- 43	1.8	
162	109	Benfield & Rea	125		6.7	12.7
65	34	Bradstock	44	-	13.5	
1372	1023	Britannic	1235	- 23	3.8	8.8
1300	707	CGU	985	+ 5	3.4	22.4
167	122	CLM Insce	123		13.2	8.0
277	193	Charles Taylor	219		2.7	20.5
142	105	Chaucer	116		8.6	8.6
152	81	Countrywide As	114	+ 2	3.3	11.6
525	232	Cox Insce	364		1.1	21.5
565	430	Dom & Gen	527		2.6	18.0
159	96	Excalibur	126		14.9	3.8
491	303	FBD IE	373	+ 1	2.7	14.2
495	227	GRE	338	- 3	3.9	5.3
749	441	Hiberrian E	637	+ 5	2.1	12.5
261	165	Hiscox	174	- 1	2.4	20.1
397	203	Independent	213	- 6	2.1	5.6
615	342	Irish Life	525	+ 5	2.6	15.4
235	151	Jardine Lyd Th	191		6.9	11.6
130	82	Lambert Fen	83		6.4	10.2
796	500	Legal & Gen	736	+ 11	2.3	21.2
2278	706	Liberty Life	1012	- 34	3.3	10.7
244	142	Limit	170		5.1	3.8
627	479	Londn & Man	601	-	5.1	24.7
3878	2559	Marsh McLn	3581	- 46	2.7	
135	100	Masthead	107		19.4	5.7
80	59	New London Cap	64	+ 2	13.8	7.0
558	385	Norwich Union	440	- 1	3.4	15.0
156	68	Ockham	69	- 2	8.3	
138	98	Premium Trust	128	+ 1	3.9	28.5
1000	601	Prudential	884	+ 8	2.2	23.8
24	14	PWS	15		8.0	3.5
825	437	Royal & Sun All	519	+ 23	4.5	15.1
383	167	St James Place	271	- 14	0.7	25.2
225	123	Sedgwick	225		3.1	
30	16	Steel Burrill	24		7.8	76.3
649	434	Sun Life & P	551	+ 19	2.8	23.9
188	110	SVB	155	-	9.3	10.7
650	491	Utd Assurance	564	- 3	4.9	8.9
204	141	Wellington	198		4.0	12.0
16	10	Windsor	12		6.2	
191	127	Wren	144	+ 1	4.9	8.4

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
678	450	3i	590	+ 57	2.3	32.4
55	26	Aberdeen Emrg Ec	44			
137	95	Aberdeen High Inc	119	-	8.1	15.5
133	61	Abrdn New Dawn	109	+ 1	1.9	58.1
257	155	Aberdn Smll	184	+	4.9	20.5
159	73	Aberdn Sm Wts	95			
3090	2323	Alliance	2886	+ 33	1.7	44.2
747	535	Anglo & Ovsas	700	+ 14	1.8	63.0
75	49	Audl Opps	75		2.7	33.1
129	20	BFS Inc & Grth	84		15.4	9.3
124	53	BFS Inc & Grth IT	121		10.7	14.0
102	84	BFS Inc & Grth ZPf	96			
67	38	Baillie Gifford SN	56	+		
299	182	Bankers	247	+ 6	2.9	40.2
118	55	Baring Emrg Eu	79	+		
142	107	Br Assets	131	+ 2	4.5	
122	86	Br Empire Sect	98		1.4	56.5
61	19	Brazilian	39	+	2.8	32.6
375	243	Brunner	310	+ 2	2.8	48.6
110	73	Caingorm Dem	83		4.5	26.0
1000	737	Candover	812	- 2	3.5	33.4
68	26	Central Euro Gwth	38	-		
547	327	Chart European	462	+ 5	1.6	
198	164	City Merch HY	182	+ 1	7.6	14.7
381	204	City Of Lon	253	+ 2	3.3	34.9
80	69	Dartge Inv Inc	79	+	13.0	10.2

(column continued: investment trusts)

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
635	462	Derby Cap	564			
156	121	Derby Inc	132		17.0	3.8
104	46	Dresdner RCM Emg	72	+		
242	175	Dres RCM Smir	132		2.5	50.2
220	171	Dundee Inc C	210	- 2	3.4	33.3
407	258	Dunedin Smlr	292		4.5	24.8
60	30	Edin Dragon	49	+		
29	11	Edinburgh Pico	15			62.0
579	355	Edinburgh IT	439	+	2.1	30.3
105	61	Edin Japan	84	+		
560	423	Edin US Tr	542	+ 6	1.3	
673	474	Electra Inv	537	+ 5	2.5	37.2
189	116	Eng & Scot	151	+ 2	3.1	32.7
605	324	European Asset	416	- 4	1.2	
70	31	Fidelity Asian Val	62	-		73.2
398	214	Fidelity Euro Val	303	+ 1	0.2	
32	20	Fidelity Jap Val	29	+		
177	112	Fidelity Spec Val	122		1.8	45.2
281	188	Finsbury A	215		2.3	
223	137	Finsbury Grth	181	+ 4	2.6	43.5
18	0	Fine Art Wts	1			
649	457	Fleming Amer	592	+ 7	0.5	
64	29	Fleming Asian	47	-	1.9	
12	5	Fleming Asian Wts	10			
64	23	Fleming Chinese	41		1.5	
27	7	Fleming Ch Wts	16			
507	363	Fleming Claverl	439	+ 2	1.9	60.9
707	451	Fleming Cont	567	+ 6	0.6	
134	55	Fleming Em Mkt	88			
411	276	Flem Gen Gth Ord	349	+ 1	1.0	
166	143	Flem Gen Gth Pf	159		10.3	
133	99	Fleming Inc Cap	131		5.5	23.3
114	105	Fleming Ing Inc	109		11.3	10.1
350	204	Fleming Ing Cap	296	+ 4		
50	30	Fleming Indust	34			
12	4	Fleming Ja Wts	8			
167	106	Fleming Japan	148	+ 1		
478	289	Fleming Merc	373	+ 1	4.3	29.3
332	221	Fleming Mid Cap	278	+	2.4	59.3
82	47	Fleming Mid Res	72		0.6	
438	313	Fleming Oscr	399	+ 6	0.9	
200	112	Fleming Smlr Co	129		2.6	47.5
506	244	Fleming US Disc	337	+ 3	0.4	
210	152	Foreign & Col	185	+ 2	1.6	64.9
127	91	F&C Inc Grth	111	+	3.9	28.4
107	38	F&C Emg Mkts	46	+		
302	185	F&C Enterprise	259		1.9	56.2
577	331	F&C Eurotrst	455	+ 5	0.5	
132	46	F&C Latin Amer	79	+		
131	79	F&C Pacific	115	+ 1	2.0	60.4
182	135	F&C PEP	157	+	3.6	34.1
227	145	F&C Smaller	168	-	2.2	43.4
179	118	F&C US Smlr	156	+		
70	60	Framlin Inc	69		9.7	11.5
173	91	Framlin Cap	131	+		
295	33	Fund Dual Cp	190	+ 2		
63	32	Fulcrum Cap	52			
22	8	Fulcrum Inc	10		148.8	0.8
200	168	Fulcrum Zero	200	+		
335	270	Gartmore Brit	330		3.6	35.7
369	229	Gartmore Euro	307	+ 1	0.5	
158	104	Gartmore Shd	141	+	8.6	14.0
482	239	Grnore Smlr Cos	286		2.7	47.3
86	57	Geared Inc Ord	62	+	8.9	11.2
62	51	Geared Inc Inc	55		10.0	9.9
111	101	Geared Inc 0 Pf	110	-		
103	31	Gov Asn Sm Cos	71		0.9	
92	37	Gov Emg Mks	55	+	1.1	72.8
98	71	Govett High Inc	91		7.7	
499	318	Govett Strategic	371	+ 4	2.6	
35	19	Gresham House	30		1.5	2.3
147	99	GT Inc Growth	127	+	3.3	28.0
180	115	GT Japan	144	+ 1		
156	114	Gsm Fl Ex Inc	143		7.0	
79	61	Henderson Am Cp	76			
122	112	Henderson Am In	119		8.1	13.2
46	29	Henderson Am Wt	44	+ 1		
374	260	Hend Elec Gen	327	+ 3	1.5	67.5
132	73	Hend Far East	108		8.0	15.3
580	452	Hend Grnfriar	570		1.7	71.5
183	141	Hend High Inc	163		5.3	22.1
42	24	Hend Jap Smlr	32	+		
300	185	Hend Smlr	224	+ 2	2.2	72.4
632	379	Hend Strata	469	+ 1	0.1	
69	36	Hend TR Pac	56		0.6	
128	84	Hend Tech	122	+		
203	131	Herald	163		0.7	
133	94	High Income T	111	+	7.8	14.3
174	109	H Govett Smlr	125		3.8	
196	112	HS UK Smlr	133	+ 1	2.7	45.1
214	153	Inv Capt	197	+ 1	3.7	33.3
97	30	Intl Biotech	37			
20	1	Inv Biotec Wts	1			
58	27	INVESCO Asia	45		1.8	42.4
217	106	INVESCO Eng Int	123	+ 1	1.4	38.9
36	21	INVESCO Jap Ds	31			
48	22	INVESCO Korea	42	-		
33	19	INVESCO Tokyo	25	-		
187	67	JF Fledg Jap	96	+		
228	135	J Fry Euro U	193		3.8	28.2
155	85	J Fry Util	141		5.0	16.9
95	79	J Fry Util Inct	90		7.7	65.6
150	116	Jupiter Er Inct	136	+	7.2	17.3
43	17	Jupiter Er Inctwt	30			
105	91	Jupiter Grd Cppt	102		11.1	10.8
51	41	Jupiter Grd Pfd	47	+ 1		
160	127	Jupiter Intl Grn	140		3.7	
872	518	Jupiter Prims	765		1.1	
183	160	Kleinwort Emr	182			
201	89	Kleinwrt Euro	159		0.8	
1289	987	Law Debenture	1127	+ 14	3.2	31.3
123	107	Life Ofl Opp	121	-		
161	92	Lloyds Sm Cap	183			
22	14	Lloyds Sm Dw	15			3.8
178	105	Lloyds Sm Pfg	118		4.7	
217	171	Lon St Lawrence	186		4.7	24.1
428	291	Lowland	338	+ 1	4.5	26.8
812	797	M&G 2nd Dual Cap	808			
51	50	M&G 2nd Dual Inc	50			1.6
101	65	M&G Inc Geared	87	+	8.6	15.5
78	43	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	64	+		
28	20	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc	23			3.7
183	149	M&G Inc Package	171		4.5	
85	77	M&G Inc Zero Div	85			
70	25	M&G Rec Cap	42	+		
95	48	M&G Rec Geared	67	+	11.1	
28	20	M&G Rec Inc	24		29.9	4.4
266	158	M&G Rec Pacge	182		4.1	
121	108	M&G Rec Zero Dw	121			
243	147	M Curie Euro	190	+	0.6	
84	51	M Curie Japan	75	+ 1		
125	67	M Curie Pac	98		2.4	39.3
366	278	Majedie	328	+ 4	2.5	
438	332	Merchants	411	+ 5	4.5	27.7
180	114	Mercury Euro Pvt	144	+	2.3	34.4
98	34	Mercury Eur Wt	59	+ 1		
74	40	Mercury World	61	+	1.6	67.3
833	649	Monks Inv Tst	787	+ 5	1.6	62.4
209	147	Morg Gren Inct	180	-	5.0	30.3
109	59	Morg Wts	85			
82	29	Morg Gren Latn Amer	51	+	1.0	74.4
32	8	Morg Wts	16			
142	82	Murray Ent	90		4.4	
29	3	Murray Ent Wts	8			
71	23	Murray Emg Eco	38	+	1.8	47.5
11	1	Murray Emg Ec Wt	5			
538	382	Murray Income	483	+ 4	4.1	33.0
505	346	Murray Intl	436	+ 4	4.2	28.9
434	234	Murray Smlr	341	+ 3	2.3	41.8
83	61	Murray Ventures IT	63			
305	271	Natwest Ent	305		2.5	40.1



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(column continued)

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
5	2	Newsstd	3			
56	24	Pacific Assets	45	+	1.1	
140	83	Perpetual Eng	118	+	0.5	
156	97	Perp Inc Gth	130	+ 1	3.4	35.6
37	21	Perpetual Jap	30	+		
474	262	Pers Ui Em Co	235	+	3.0	37.7
£200	£164	Personal Assets	£186	+ 1	1.7	
158	98	Private Inc	129		4.6	23.1
380	270	RIT Cap Ptn	337	+ 4	0.7	
7253	5284	Robeco NV	6875	+ 46	1.7	24.9
6321	4465	Rolinco NV	5765	+ 55	0.8	
58	35	Schrd Asia Pac	43		1.2	
73	33	Schrod Emg Col	48			
165	115	Schrod Inc Gwth	136	+	4.3	35.2
61	35	Schrod Jap Gwth	54	+		
282	141	Schrd Korea	280		0.8	
93	21	Schrod Spic Grp	49	-	2.7	10.0
136	114	Schrod Split Incr	127			
169	154	Schrod Split Zero	164			
179	107	Schrod UK Gwth	137	-	3.4	30.9
198	149	Schrod Vent Intl	160	+	1.0	72.0
388	282	Scot	353	+ 6	2.1	56.2
233	170	Scot American	228	+ 4	3.1	36.3
144	77	Scot Asian	117	-	0.9	15.0
140	92	Scot Eastern	121	+ 2	1.1	42.4
401	264	Scot Mtge	353	+ 2	1.9	58.2
153	97	Scot Natnl	117		2.6	
2755	2042	Second Alliance	2562	+ 27	2.6	45.6
137	91	Secs Tst of Scot	115	+ 2	4.1	28.5
181	11	Shires Sml	138	-	5.7	21.6
183	117	Smaller Cos	121			
299	21	St Andrew Inv	217	+ 1	3.3	35.2
613	451	Temple Bar	551	+ 4	4.1	27.0
102	69	Throgmorton	80	+	4.1	30.1
128	94	Tor Eur Emg Mkt	97	+	1.4	52.1
236	155	TR City Lon	202		0.2	
504	34	TR Property	37		2.7	27.9
472	374	TR Tech Inv	400		8.8	32.0
621	425	Tribune	533	+ 1	1.9	59.6
165	116	Undeveloped Ad	131		2.2	33.5
167	105	Value Inc Trst	126		4.9	23.3
139	102	Value Rlsd	132	+ 1	1.1	
56	34	Warrants & Val	48			
110	72	Wigmore	77		0.7	
402	287	Witan	362	+ 5	2.5	44.8
74	60	Yeoman Inc	65	+	4.2	
200	106	Thomson Travel	148	- 3	2.4	19.3
87	59	Tottenham Hotl	74	- 1	1.0	
212	55	Vardon	145	+ 3	2.1	18.8
108	45	Waterall	97	+ 1	4.5	12.9
412	298	Wembley	303		1.6	7.9
162	104	Zetters Gp	108		12.7	6.0

LEISURE & HOTELS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
29	11	ABI Leisure	13			
543	282	Airtours	410	-	1.9	16.8
33	19	Ald Leisr	26		5.0	6.0
21	12	Arena Les	12	-		24.6
760	472	Aston Villa	692		1.6	10.0
157	110	BS Group	135		4.6	
800	325	Boosey Hwks	350	+ 12	3.6	20.3
35	26	Burndene	28		10.1	6.7
159	47	Capital Corpn	58	- 2	8.5	7.9
355	185	Celtic	300	- 2		13.2
109	66	Chelsea	85	- 1		18.0
1275	540	Eidos	860	+ 15		8.6
305	115	EMC	148	- 1		
318	171	Eurocamp	221		6.6	7.8
110	67	Euro Disney	87			
146	73	Euro Leisure	73		7.7	5.8
168	82	First Choice	100	+ 1	3.6	14.3
432	159	First Leisure	215	+ 2	5.4	11.4
159	95	Friendly Hotels	97	+ 1	7.7	7.2
1217	670	Granada	932	+ 22	2.3	17.4
51	16	Hi-Tec Sports	19	+ 1	9.6	3.6
389	147	Holmes Place	307		2.7	24.0
282	165	Hornby	185		4.7	8.7
373	191	Hozelock	215		6.6	12.3
200	96	James Hotels	124		4.7	7.2
569	351	Jarvis Hotel	465	+	2.0	15.6
37	19	Kunick	24		4.3	11.1
370	190	Ladbroke	242	- 4	2.9	15.9
328	114	London Clubs	138		6.2	10.2
243	130	Macdonald Hlts	160	+ 15	4.1	9.9
234	123	Man Utd	220		1.0	56.8
59	26	Mandarin Orntl	46		2.5	18.3
620	294	Millennium & Cop	409	+ 2	2.8	14.7
1	0	Millwall Hldgs	1			
115	56	Newcastle Utd	93		2.4	
300	82	Northern	113		6.3	12.6
77	44	Prism Leisure	72		11.0	6.7
30	18	Queensborough	18		3.0	7.2
43	12	Queens Moat	20	+		3.1
421	197	Rank Grp	240	+ 5	8.9	8.9
35	27	Regal Hotel	32		5.1	6.4
84	50	Ryan Hotels IE	60		4.0	10.3
51	19	Sheffield United	26			
252	104	Sinclare (Wm)	104		10.9	7.3
80	41	Southampton	45	+	2.7	
143	79	Stakis	105	+	3.2	14.0
343	250	Stanley Leisure	261	+	2.2	17.5
10	2	Tandem	3	-		
346	346	Tenpin	346		1.0	33.3
250	116	Thistle Hotels	135		4.0	11.6

MEDIA

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
445	248	Abbott Mead	408	+ 48	2.1	26.1
179	110	Adscene	117	+ 1	9.1	10.4
112	64	Aegis Gp	87	-	0.9	22.8
154	40	Aspen Grp	44		7.0	
195	97	Atlantic Telecom	144	+ 10		
255	184	Barbour Index	212		6.2	17.5
420	320	Black (A&C)	412		4.2	14.5
370	257	Bertex TV	327	+ 3	2.8	35.2
515	380	Bristol	385	+ 5	5.9	10.4
310	120	Brit Aircraft	251	+ 5	1.0	28.7
594	333	BSkyB	501	- 4	1.5	37.2
747	435	Capital Radio	542	+ 1	3.0	
595	333	Carlton Comms	455	- 9	3.5	13.6
437	145	Chrysalis Grp	330	+ 14	1.8	13.8
63	40	Chime Comms	50	+ 6	4.9	12.4
812	537	Chrysalis	658	- 2	0.4	
92	72	City of Lon	76		10.4	12.8
128	68	Copyright Promo	70			
137	88	Cordiant Comms	111	+ 7	1.1	18.5
3184	2084	Daily Mail	2384		1.3	22.7
3250	1950	Daily Mail A	2650	+ 50	1.1	25.2
243	65	Dialog	71	- 4		
267	149	Dorling Kindr	251	+	1.9	27.5
495	265	Dudley Jenkins	467		5.0	38.3
1317	820	EMAP	1177	+ 9	1.7	22.4
685	300	EMI	350	- 8	4.6	17.5
1117	736	Elsevier	843	- 5	3.5	56.6
2412	1287	Euromoney Pb	1852	- 37	3.6	18.8
69	46	Fech	46	-	2.0	7.6
614	402	Flextech	581	- 7		
245	155	GWR Gp	221		2.1	31.1
395	157	Gearhouse Group	240		4.0	9.3
55	33	Goodhead	35		2.9	11.1
620	290	HIT Entertnmt	615		0.2	
297	202	Hayes Pub	210		7.0	9.4
14	7	Highbury Hse	7			5.4

MINING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3615	2275	Ang Am Coal	3434	- 16	4.5	
3552	1485	Ang Am	1925	+ 18	4.2	8.6
3208	1931	Ang Am Gold	2600	- 90	4.8	21.0
984	534	Anglo Am Plat	984		3.3	8.2
3543	2040	Anglogold	2306	- 50	5.9	16.9
22	12	Anglo Pac Grp	12			23.2
31	16	Anglo Intl	16			
645	352	Ashanti	590	- 1	2.0	19.6
66	21	Aztec	30	- 2	5.0	
112	14	Avocet	21			
187	92	Billiton	131	+ 2	4.8	9.9
35	25	Bisichi	26		4.3	7.8
20	5	Bougainville	8			
299	130	Central Pacific	172			
50	20	Cons Murchison	23	+		
1639	789	De Beers	834	- 6	3.5	9.6
426	199	Durbanism	317	- 2	3.0	15.2
225	83	Durban	178	- 4		
18	9	E Rand Prop	11			
273	141	Eng China Cly	160		10.1	7.2
71	17	FS Dev	20	-		
123	51	GFSA	123	+ 2	19.7	17.0
148	85	Gencor	105	- 2	5.2	10.6
41	10	Greenwich R A	10	-		
356	112	Harmony	301	- 3		
800	443	Impala Plat	787	+ 3	4.7	10.1
13	8	Kenmare Res	9			
33	14	Kelsten	18	- 1		
369	220	Lonmin	319	+ 1	6.6	12.6
11	3	Metallica	4			
42	24	MIM	30	+	3.2	
1175	516	Minorco	993	- 9	3.9	12.3
137	65	Moorgate	110		4.4	
73	34	Normandy	57	+ 1	4.0	17.7
177	101	North	112	- 1	4.8	19.0
60	15	Peliting Tin	17			
111	48	RGC	107	+		6.1
170	47	RJB	53	+ 3	30.7	0.9
29	8	Rackwood	8			2.5
196	77	Randfontein	176	+ 1		9.4
121	24	Rewnos Mng	48			
898	535	Rio Tinto	743	+ 2	4.2	14.6
871	574	Rio Tinto Ltd	789	+ 22	4.0	16.9
3	2	St Barbara	3			
211	120	St Helena	179	-	15.9	2.9
200	135	Sons Gwalia	189	-	5.2	8.0
130	50	Shern Pacific	74	-		
238	150	WMC	195	-	2.3	25.1
27	4	Wankie Col Z	5		5.7	8.4
67	19	Wano Hall	19	- 3		
443	315	Watts Blake	316		7.0	9.8
149	83	Zambia Copper	92	-		

OIL & GAS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
221	132	Abbot Group	186		1.9	21.6
27	11	Alliance Res	13			
64	24	Amlnex	24			
77	40	Aus Oil & Gas	53	- 2	2.9	15.9
27	3	Awna Pet	4			
430	153	Br Borneo	159	- 10	2.2	51.4
438	265	BG	429	+ 3	2.4	35.1
972	708	Br Petroleum	855	+ 23	3.1	31.0
1	0	Bula Resources	0			
495	103	Cairn Energy	118	- 3		48.8
126	80	Centrica	120	+ 1		
65	36	Cityview	41	+ 2		
14	2	Coplex Res	3			
12	4	Dana Pet	7	-		
72	16	Dragon Oil	20	+ 2		73.9
28	12	Edin Oil & Gs	14	+	2.6	
10	4	Emerald Energy	5			
697	317	Enterprise	335	- 14	6.0	69.0
14	4	Fortune	4			19.9
294	137	Hardy Oil	138	- 9	0.9	
47	8	JKX Oil & Gas	13			
430	155	KBC Adv Tech	235		2.1	21.2
305	143	LASMO	144	- 5	1.6	
42	22	Lasmo Units	33			28.7
83	33	Monument	38	- 2		15.2
3118	1984	Norsk Hydro	2234	+ 34	2.7	13.3
133	65	Oil Search	86	- 2		
58	17	Paladin Res	26			
58	24	Pelroz	25	- 1		
54	21	Premier	21		3.5	7.1
448	314	Ranger	327	+ 3		6.1
3618	2596	Royal Dtch Pt	2937	+ 59	3.4	20.8
5143	2584	Schlumberger	2975	- 68	1.5	
459	312	Shell	357	+ 14	3.6	20.7
370	48	SOCO Intl	75	- 5		13.8
8187	5649	Total	7262	+ 325	1.9	
332	147	XCL	180	- 10		

OTHER FINANCIAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
134	84	Aberdeen Asset	99		5.1	37.4
775	245	AMVESCAP	484	+ 24	1.4	24.9
256	120	BMD	229		4.8	13.8
55	40	Berry Brk Hldl	42		5.9	
294	170	Brotech Inv	205	- 1		
470	245	Brewin Dolphin	371		3.4	13.6
975	628	Caledonia	726	- 24	3.7	23.0
4500	2800	Camellia	3500		1.3	5.3
683	398	Cattles	642	+ 5	2.0	29.4
57	37	Christie	44		4.2	9.5
933	401	Close Bros	587	+ 2	3.1	15.5
612	187	EFM	255		12.3	9.1
387	165	Euro Sales Fin	232		0.5	20.0
42	19	Fishers Intl	33	-	2.8	16.2
219	102	Friends Ivory Sime	145		6.3	14.8
466	243	Gerrard	310		6.9	8.1
272	148	Hitachi Credt	260	+	2.8	19.3
32	20	Intercapital	23		4.1	
228	145	Investment Co	222		2.8	11.0
177	59	Jardine Strat	112	- 1	8.0	8.3
164	95	Johnson Fry	100		5.0	
645	530	Leopold J	537		4.8	20.7
619	433	Liberty Intl	498	-	4.8	20.6
476	67	Lon Forfaitng	145	+ 7	10.6	13.0
280	154	London Pacific	177		9.8	8.4
160	92	Lon Scot Bk	121	+ 1	3.6	20.6
373	232	Man ED & F	318		4.7	10.0
1945	887	M & G	1410		3.8	21.0
253	124	Paragon	185		1.9	7.3
4537	2195	Perpetual	3167	+ 12	3.0	17.7
1096	685	Provident	917	- 40	2.9	24.8
647	367	Rathbone Bros	537		3.7	17.8
69	42	Rea Brothers	44		3.0	7.9
65	45	Rutland Tst	54		4.0	13.7
107	44	SEC Group	49		13.0	12.8
392	228	S & U	289		8.4	9.7
2025	831	Schroders	1240	- 18	1.6	21.3
1775	650	Schroders N/V	1050	+ 48	1.9	18.0
795	385	Sec Tst Bkg	580		5.2	11.3
185	80	Singer & Fried	112	- 8	6.2	7.5
67	44	Tenny Law	44			
5	3	Trio Hldgs	3			
40	22	Union	24			
91	46	Versailles Grp	86		8.7	32.9
482	354	Wintrust	380		4.9	14.6

PHARMACEUTICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	27	Brit Biotech	41	+		
300	163	Cantab Pharms	217			
458	187	Celltech	428	+ 3		
356	195	Chiroscience	298	+ 4		

PRINTING & PAPER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
201	46	Core Group	47			
205	26	Cortecs	27	- 2		
2090	1133	Glaxo Well	1960	+ 19	1.8	54.4
247	182	Goldshield	243		0.6	20.9
319	105	KS Biomedix	257			
135	52	ML Laboratories	54			
185	72	Medeva	108	- 5	5.2	5.4
260	42	Oxford Molecular	60			
310	75	Peptide Thera	113			
170	47	Phytopharm	162	+ 1		
520	194	Powderject	495	- 2		
89	31	Proteus Intl	37			
72	33	Ransom (Wm)	39	- 5	8.7	9.3
181	49	Quadrant Health	76	- 1		
394	79	Scotia	99	- 25		
549	285	Shire Pharms	435			
103	42	SkyePharma	79	+ 1		
699	528	SmithKlineB	742	+ 7	1.6	35.0
223	46	Therp Anti Inc	52	- 5		
652	177	Vanguard	212			
182	2	Vanguard Wts	3			
245	31	Xenova	41			
2850	1735	Zeneca	2558	+ 67	1.9	33.2
545	278	API	307		5.1	8.5
156	68	Apo Hold	127			23.0
255	90	Arjo Wiggins	119	-	6.9	6.1
468	260	Bemrose	270	+ 9	7.7	6.5
3571	1829	Bowater Inc	2365	- 25		
313	106	Bowtorne Entr	136		3.1	9.1
337	270	Br Polythene	284	+ 7	9.1	6.5
348	197	Burt	276	- 2	2.6	14.9
168	45	Capital Indst	47		11.2	
291	153	Cropper (James)	155		4.1	12.8
399	131	De La Rue	185	- 1	4.7	11.9
274	193	Dolphin Pack	212		5.0	9.3
105	28	Ferguson Intl	52	-		
212	134	Fibsin	206		2.5	21.9
90	27	Imerest	28		5.4	16.0
229	94	Jarvis Porter	95		10.5	6.0
21	12	LBB Pubchrs	12		6.4	4.8
420	165	Low & Bonar	173	-	9.8	5.7
25	3	Lowe (Robert)	3		10.0	1.3
93	54	Mcl. Holdings	68		5.5	
177	49	Macfarlane	64	- 1	8.8	6.5
347	132	Priestbrook	197		0.8	22.4
197	122	Pryus	134	- 1	7.8	9.2
34	17	Porter Chadbm	19		5.6	5.5
330	168	REXAM	210	- 1	8.4	6.9
193	127	RPC	153	+ 4	3.8	11.2
547	286	St Ives Grt	351		4.5	10.3
410	182	Saga	274	-		
122	63	Sefton	79		4.0	
253	100	Smith David	121	+ 12	8.4	10.2
240	79	Smurfit (Jef)	118		3.7	
168	67	Somic	72	- 2	6.7	7.8
43	16	Wace	32			
307	172	Waddington	181	- 11	7.7	7.2
320	164	Wyndeham	229		3.5	11.4

PROPERTY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
18	3	Abermarle A	3			
116	59	Allied Lon	75		6.3	7.8
195	114	Asda	123		3.1	13.7
36	21	Achquay Grp	24		1.0	41.0
180	125	Ashdene Hldgst	134	+	4.8	14.2
216	135	Benchmark	135		3.2	10.7
310	186	Bilton	308		4.5	21.3
208	144	Bixby	160		7.0	9.5
5	1	Bolton Gp	2			
64	33	Bourne Endt	36		4.1	39.5
322	203	Bradford	224		5.3	15.1
825	461	Br Land	520	- 7	2.2	28.6
255	166	Brixton	182	- 1	6.0	13.5
132	87	Burford	87	- 1	3.4	27.4
149	93	CLS Hldgs	111		6.6	13.8
318	154	Cap & Regnl	156		3.0	16.9
460	325	Cap Shop Ctrs	351		3.5	21.8
355	243	Cardiff Prop	245	- 1	1.6	34.6
13	4	Catray Intl	5			
418	232	Chelsfield	263	- 3	1.6	31.9
687	380	Chesterfield	384		4.4	38.4
37	15	Chesterton Intl	17			7.3
180	88	City North	102		2.7	25.7
53	17	City Site Ests	29			
107	72	Cleveland Tst	91	+	8.5	16.9
95	78	CNC Propty	88		4.8	8.5
264	184	Conrad	203		2.8	16.7
1710	1065	Daejan	1105		4.8	10.4
126	60	Debenham Tws	77		5.6	7.7
163	69	Delancey Ests	100		2.0	57.5
225	192	Denezsa	192		3.2	11.8
598	395	Derwent Hldgs	473		1.8	33.6
355	209	Development Sec	211		1.8	3.5
440	410	Estates Agency	440		5.5	21.6
91	55	Estates Gen	70	- 1	1.8	19.9
176	79	Evans Of Leeds	87	+ 1	5.4	11.9
46	36	Fletcher King	36		9.0	10.6
71	57	Folkes Group	60		5.8	6.9
71	54	Folkes Group nvt	57		6.1	6.5
549	358	Frogmore	382		6.9	9.7
19	9	Golden Land Inv	9			
370	258	Grainger	285		3.3	13.7
296	188	Gt Portland	194		5.9	18.9
200	120	Grantchester	145		1.0	
252	124	Greycoat	146		1.3	21.6
537	357	Hammerson	387	+ 2	3.6	20.1
33	16	Hampton Trust	18			
692	490	Helical Bar	495	- 2	2.4	8.5
50	24	Hemingway	24		3.2	20.8
130	48	HK Land	88	-	8.4	9.1
352	200	Jermyn	278		2.9	31.4
183	94	LSH	145		4.6	8.3
135	84	Lands Imp	92		6.4	
1190	790	Land Sec	821	- 4	4.3	21.2
36	20	Lon & Assoc	22		5.1	9.4
141	107	Lon Merch Sec	109	+ 1	6.1	14.6
650	395	MEPC	412	+ 1	5.5	13.7
119	70	MWB Group	73		6.4	5.6
152	125	McKay Secs	125		4.9	16.0
97	57	Marvale Mie	71		4.4	5.2
368	204	Milner Est	233		2.8	16.6
247	136	Minerva	185		1.5	
34	18	Moorfield Est	19		3.8	16.7
1900	1681	Mountview	1775		3.4	9.8
168	128	Mucklow (A&J)	147	- 1	6.4	15.0
163	129	NHP	160	+ 1	6.3	17.9
49	31	OEM	31			62.2
74	44	ORB	56			16.3
607	527	Peel	530		2.0	
353	227	Pillar Prop	256		2.9	37.7
98	80	Primary Hlth	86		8.4	15.9
13	5	Probus Estates	5			
204	122	Quintain	151		3.3	20.7
29	21	Raglan	23	+	6.8	7.8
36	16	RegaRant	19	-	6.5	18.5
202	130	Rugby Estt	132		2.7	3.8
81	60	St Modwen Prp	64		6.1	7.7
86	52	Savills Erde	81		6.5	18.1
140	84	Savills	95		6.2	5.8
113	75	Scot Mett	77	- 2	5.4	12.5
246	164	Shaftesbury	172		1.7	40.3
414	272	Slough Estates	274	+ 1	3.7	17.4
287	234	Smart (J)	272		4.8	
130	87	TBI	96	+	2.3	24.5
203	113	Tops Ests	117		2.5	30.2
118	62	Town Centre	64		8.0	10.1
103	73	UK Land	80		5.3	6.3
278	203	Warner	216	- 1	7.5	14.4
263	230	Warnford	230		4.2	13.2
110	69	Wates	75			21.2
453	345	Workspace Grp	422		5.2	14.2

RETAILERS, FOOD

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
227	148	ASDA Group	157	+ 1	2.8	15.2
426	178	Alldays	178		13.3	4.6
81	55	Budgens	62		3.2	11.4
80	53	Dairy Farm Intl	78	+	4.6	14.4
212	157	Farepak	186		4.0	12.2
184	93	Fyffes	128		2.1	14.7
2767	1995	Greggs	2500		1.9	19.9
261	119	Iceland Group	238	+ 3	2.8	13.7
308	227	Morrison (W)	308	+ 6	0.9	23.8
69	38	Park Group	44		8.4	16.1
407	259	Safeway	303	+ 1	5.9	13.9
588	370	Sainsbury J	315	- 13	3.4	19.0
484	207	Somerfield	444	+ 1	3.2	14.2
338	194	T & S Stores	273		4.0	14.2
208	150	Tesco	180	+ 2	2.7	20.5
293	157	Thorntons	218		3.7	16.1

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
342	225	A de Gruchy	230		4.8	13.0
303	175	Alexon	216			11.7
266	92	Allders	96		10.9	4.7
180	38	Allied Carpets	53		18.3	6.7
508	192	Arcadia Group	205	+ 6	5.3	8.9
41	12	Ashley (Laura)	15			
218	97	Austin Reed	97		9.6	6.2
172	114	Beale	114		5.3	7.4
193	142	Beattie (J)	163	-	7.8	10.2
155	65	Bentalls	73	-	6.5	8.2
498	174	Blacks Lels	248	-	2.9	8.5
146	76	Body Shop	77	- 5	9.2	8.5
1095	602	Boots	995		2.9	24.3
84	30	Brown & Jackson	73			13.5
460	210	Brown (N)	280		3.4	14.8
505	158	Carpetright	183	+ 12	15.0	7.1
432	261	Church	305	- 5	7.1	8.3
147	95	Clinton Cards	137		3.0	12.6
272	150	Country Gdns	177	- 2	1.4	15.2
432	247	Courts Furnsh	274	- 1	1.8	10.2
587	162	DFS Furniture	188	- 2	8.7	8.5
433	276	Debenhams	391	+	3.2	15.5
724	459	Dixons Grp	723	+ 1	2.2	18.6
99	45	Etc Boutique	87	+	0.3	24.8
6	3	ERA Gp	4			2.8
70	11	Essex Furnit	11	-	23.9	2.6
208	85	Falkland Isls	88			38.1
218	109	Fine Art Dev	122		10.1	9.5
502	129	Flying Fir Uo	181		5.1	10.3
137	72	Formminster	72		5.9	6.6
465	275	French Conn	315		1.4	10.6
45	27	Gieves	30	+	5.5	9.6
333	124	Goldsmiths Gp	124	- 2	8.3	6.3
147	72	Grampian Hlgs	86	- 1	10.6	10.5
918	575	GUS	614	- 11	4.1	14.1
297	97	Hamleys	160	- 2	8.6	7.8
116	32	Hampden Grp	49		7.8	6.9
343	61	Harveys Furn	70		16.1	4.1
221	59	Hse of Fraser	66		10.4	7.1
171	117	Hughes (T.J)	146		3.0	12.7
320	180	JJB Sports	207	+ 2	4.4	7.5
600	354	Kingfisher	540	- 5	2.8	17.2
355	145	Liberty	145	- 5		
54	24	Limelight	29			
141	33	MFI	33	-	18.3	4.9
654	383	Marks Spencer	421	- 24	4.3	16.1
57	29	Merchant Retail	35		2.3	12.6
291	109	Moss Bros	133	- 2	5.7	8.6
189	111	New Look	145	+ 5	4.3	10.5
860	352	Next	500	+ 7	4.7	13.3
211	115	Oasis Stores	146		6.6	9.8
31	13	Owner (G)	15			
512	110	Ottakars Intl	179	+ 17	9.2	7.3
85	17	Partners	17		11.0	
95	64	Partridge Fine	72		9.0	5.7
29	15	QS Grp	22			
331	82	Rocabye	90		16.5	3.7
140	62	Sage Group	62	- 1	15.2	9.4
390	146	Sears	218		4.6	4.9
252	199	Selfridges	216	+ 4	2.6	
32	24	Signet Group	30			8.6
587	389	Smith WH	477	+ 4	4.3	15.0
1420	950	Sotheby's	1252	- 5	1.9	
294	132	Storehouse	140	+	8.3	8.4
174	115	Style Hldgs	121		1.6	15.3
82	30	Stylo	35	- 2	16.6	
127	25	Tie Rack	25		6.6	
3	2	Upton & South	3			
355	166	Wickes	166		3.0	8.8
373	236	Wyevale	322		2.8	19.7

SUPPORT SERVICES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1030	535	AEA Tech	780	+ 7	1.5	34.5
350	115	Abacus Recruit	204	+ 6	9.9	11.3
305	58	Acorn	70			
226	124	Aggreko	186	+ 5	1.6	24.3
122	31	Alpha Airpts	37		17.8	5.8
53	32	Alphameric	42	- 2		
79	41	Ante Grp	45	-	0.7	42.4
689	362	Atkins WS	527	+ 32	1.9	26.0
214	74	BNB Res	79	+ 4	12.0	6.6
790	455	BPP	474	- 4	4.4	15.9
498	294	BIG	245		0.2	
135	122	Bucham Ind	123		1.0	5.2
164	85	Brandon Hire	95	- 1	4.9	17.7
132	79	Brooks Service	92		5.8	8.5
957	175	Business Post	375	+ 5	5.1	15.1
2291	758	CMG	1518	+ 13	0.4	62.5
243	190	Cairn Cp	195		2.3	13.2
59	39	Calederbura	45		1.2	6.7
626	311	Capita Group	576	+ 8	0.7	78.3
13	6	Chemex	7		3.3	12.3
622	357	Compass Cntr	501	- 7	0.8	21.5
262	144	Corp Services	147	- 4	5.5	10.0
32	21	Courts Credig	24	- 1	1.8	
649	312	DCS Gp	505		0.6	29.4
352	27	Dansk Bs Sys	49	- 3	4.0	
459	270	Davis Service	341	+ 11	4.3	15.6
830	245	Delphi	277		3.4	16.5
1350	620	Diagma	950	- 12	0.4	51.9
32	15	Eurocorp	18		13.0	3.8
102	51	El Data Pic	74		3.8	
329	154	FI Group	290	+ 9	0.5	76.9
578	270	Guardian IT	438	+ 8	0.1	70.8
147	79	HR Group	87	-	3.7	6.8
456	189	Harvey Nash	230		2.6	13.7
577	337	Hays	529	- 29	1.3	32.0
415	225	Hercules Prop	225	- 1	2.8	7.5
58	35	Hesta Pounding	37			5.9
325	234	Hogg Robinson	204	- 5	6.7	13.7
275	142	Hunting	144		6.4	7.4
1257	180	JBA Hldgs	192	- 2	3.3	43.7
330	180	Johnson Svce	237	+ 7	6.8	8.2
69	30	Kalamazoo	40			
1190	570	Kewill Sys	1135	+ 55	1.1	24.1
24	13	Lyon-Sean	14			
551	366	Lavendon	380		1.8	17.0
462	239	Lopex	435	+ 19	0.7	51.4
806	119	Lorien	134	- 1	7.0	6.5
350	120	Lyria Grp	163	+ 4	7.3	
96	32	MDIS	45			25.5
1422	580	MMT Compt	932	+ 42	1.9	21.5
164	83	MR Group	86		5.9	10.6
555	320	Macro 4	340		9.6	10.1
342	142	Marlborough Int	225			40.8
162	52	Mercator Abbey	62	+	1.6	17.2
721	107	Micro Focus	112	+ 4		6.4
137	56	Microgen	110	- 1		
744	315	Misys	445	- 14	0.8	33.6
168	92	MITIE Gp	110		1.3	23.3
445	181	Nord Anglia	194		2.9	16.2
65	31	Oneq	35	-	5.3	8.7
780	230	PCD	237	+ 4	4.0	9.4
667	381	Parity	465	+ 11	1.6	19.5
395	240	Pegasus	322	- 2	2.8	14.5
280	145	Penney	217		1.5	7.2
404	151	Photo-Met	357	- 7	2.3	27.2
48	17	Plasc	24			
54	19	Proudfoot	21		4.5	4.4
247	147	RCO	159		11.8	28.9
355	218	RPS Group	350	- 6	1.9	24.9
105	25	Radius	105		1.3	35.7
600	300	Real Time	452	- 2	2.1	13.0
151	75	Relma	117		2.3	18.3
193	91	Reed Executive	91	- 6	4.5	4.5
207	122	Reliance Sec	157	+ 7	6.0	10.9
474	265	Rentokil Ini	395	+ 12	1.0	36.0
231	152	Ricardo Group	202		4.1	19.9
576	225	Robert Walters	315		1.7	13.2
510	207	Rolfe & Nolan	210	- 2	1.6	
397	187	Royalblue	252		1.2	29.8
1805	825	Sage Gp	1362	+ 22	0.3	53.8
160	74	Sanderson	148	+ 4	4.4	13.6
1068	325	Select App	638	+ 1	0.5	21.7
849	338	Serna Gp	498	+ 10	0.5	47.0
1447	755	Serco Gp	1030	+ 22	0.8	58.7
206	154	Shanks & McEwan	198		2.8	19.4
1342	520	Shernd Intl	1242		0.6	42.7
74	38	Simon Grp	53		2.3	10.6
61	25	Sketchley	33			
320	154	Skillsgroup	173	- 2	3.2	15.9
493	142	Sprong Grp	146		3.8	15.5
131	85	Stat-Plus	122	+ 1	11.5	10.9
275	74	Superscape VR	132	- 1		
151	69	Tomet	91	+ 1	3.3	15.3
4050	2259	Tyco Int	3850		0.2	
152	86	WSP Group	148	+ 4	2.6	16.5
225	146	Warner Howard	146	- 2	10.3	6.7
513	332	Waste Recycl	397	+ 5	0.8	30.3
278	146	Wheatfield Mann	153		6.8	8.8
100	62	White Young Gmt	84	+	5.7	10.1
500	275	Williams	380	+ 5	4.4	20.4
480	158	Zergo	240	+ 22		

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
908	411	BT	870	+ 42	2.8	25.6
820	153	COLT Telecom	760	+ 15		
863	467	Cable Wireless	755	+ 13	1.8	26.9
716	264	Cable&Wire Comm	530	+ 20		52.3
1132	252	Energis	1092	- 2		
391	95	Euro Telecom	122		3.1	16.3
137	8	Ionica Group	17			
820	338	Orange	608	- 24		
573	286	Securicor	485	-	0.5	46.7
209	69	Telewest	129	- 1		
960	288	Vodafone	910	+ 25	0.8	56.2

TRANSPORT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
440	210	Air London	272		3.7	12.4
357	179	All Nippon As	213	- 1		
518	330	Arriva	402	+ 10	4.2	11.4
384	241	Assoc Br Ports	320	+ 7	3.7	15.7
372	150	Autologic	212	+ 4	4.4	9.6
293	166	Avis Europe	236	- 7	1.7	20.7
731	402	BAA	665	- 8	2.6	18.3
721	303	Br Airways	425	+ 18	4.7	9.5
140	65	Clarkson (H)	78		6.4	10.9
195	135	Clydeport	192	+ 2	3.8	10.6
232	158	Dart	178		2.7	14.9
83	43	Eurotunnel Uts	75			
504	221	FirstGroup	402	- 2	2.2	22.5
140	55	Fisher (James)	98	+ 3	6.2	5.9
692	489	Forth Ports	550		3.4	13.1
925	350	Frontline	400			14.3
815	510	Go-Ahead	675	+ 2	1.9	15.5
559	229	Goode Durrant	312	- 1	4.7	9.0
555	301	Helphire Gp	555		0.4	39.0
1135	700	Irish Cont	730		0.8	15.4
96	58	Jacobs	60		4.8	14.0
642	405	Mersey Docks	587	+ 13	3.7	18.2
387	170	Metroline	358	+ 3	1.4	18.9
203	99	NFC	120	+ 5	7.3	12.5
1122	676	Natl Express	1076	- 1	1.8	21.3
817	472	Ocean Group	747	+ 3	2.3	21.6
121	62	Ocean Wilson	84		6.5	5.4
1012	485	P & O Dfd	758	+ 17	4.6	16.4
130	107	P & O 5.5%	123	- 7	5.6	
515	265	Prism Rail	397		6.8	8.2
1768	571	Railtrack	1559	- 11	1.7	22.2
130	76	Salvesen (C)	91	+ 3	7.5	9.6
45	32	Seacon	33		4.7	24.5
289	145	Seacorps Ship	150	+ 1	6.6	4.8
311	108	Servcar	133		5.0	9.5
295	153	Stagecoach	225	- 17	1.3	18.3
628	297	Tibbet & Britn	307		7.7	8.2
330	190	TOG	256		5.0	17.2
181	71	Ugland	71	-	8.7	4.7
72	7	Utd Carriers	11	+	20.5	

WATER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
987	780	Anglian Water	870	- 2	5.8	10.2
335	285	East Surrey	285		5.3	8.8
1053	807	Hyder	819	- 5	6.2	7.8
128	115	Hyder Cnv Pf	124	+	7.9	
775	680	Mid Kent Hldgs	692		6.0	8.9
1145	864	Pennon	1131	+ 7	4.4	13.8
1175	865	Severn Trent	1058	+ 8	3.9	12.0
4025	3265	South Staffs	3772	- 27	3.6	13.8
1230	811	Thames	1205	+ 15	4.1	12.3
978	658	Utd Utilities	900	+ 16	4.7	12.2
580	436	Yorkshire	551	+ 3	4.5	11.0

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3	0	10 Grp	1			
191	74	AFA Systems	110			
271	175	Access Plus	175		3.5	14.7
96	36	Albemarle & Bd	87		1.8	18.0
108	98	Anglo Sloru Oil	101			
117	74	Antonov	80			
110	85	Aortech	87	+ 2		
485	236	Ask Central	350		0.4	30.9
193	124	BATM Adv Comms	173	- 1	1.7	
238	166	BCO Technologies	172			
317	160	BGR	167		2.2	19.0
44	30	Birmingham City	33			
262	108	CA Coutts Hldgs	127		3.6	12.3
235	140	Cafe Inns	140		3.1	10.5
87	38	Card Clear	44		0.7	19.6
108	71	CI Comms(TV)	97		3.4	17.0
86	47	Charlton Athl	51			
115	66	Chelsea Village	78	+		59.2
29	13	Chorion	18			
122	100	Cityslet	103		2.2	64.6
28	8	Coffee Rep	13	-		
317	117	Comino	217	- 5	2.2	15.3
369	142	Computerland UK	250		0.9	24.9
400	170	Deep Sea Leisure	250			19.8
495	18	Dester Petroleum	19			53.5
32	17	Dimension Res	24			
406	195	Dobbies Garden	252		2.3	15.4
263	145	Dragons Health	181		2.0	
210	73	Easynet	131			
390	120	Elec Retail Sys	195	- 2		
103	75	Enterprises	81		7.0	5.9
523	110	Ffornet	336			
117	82	Firestone Dinds	84			
413	206	Fitness First	291			48.4
301	176	GB Railways	178		4.6	10.0
179	85	Garland W&B	112	- 1	4.4	9.4
22	12	Gold Mas Sard	17	+		
171	113	Gooch & Housego	115		1.8	17.9
175	160	Guiton	165		4.0	12.4
256	142	Hardy Undwtg	187		4.4	8.0
145	75	Hopkins Sys	85		1.5	15.9
622	137	Indept Energy	562	- 15		
332	32	Infobank Intl	46	+ 3		
98	47	Inner Workings	47			
77	24	Intelligent Env	50			
472	339	Inter-Alliance	472	+ 2		
140	115	Interior Services	115		3.4	12.2
189	37	Internet Tech	100	- 3		
647	372	Intl Greetings	567		1.9	16.8
172	30	IQC Intl	37			
255	170	JSB Software Tech	205			
97	64	James R Knowles	65		3.1	22.2
416	280	Jennings Bros	280		3.5	20.2
193	136	Kingfisher Ls	140		1.8	15.2
427	375	Lawrence	375		3.0	13.3
5750	3750	Lauds Group	4450	- 100	2.3	4.5
517	302	Majestic Wine	317	- 5	2.0	19.0
38	17	Medisys	19			
65	19	Megalomedia	20		1.5	8.9
38	14	Memory Corp	23	+ 2		
73	47	Metalrussia	57			6.0
191	45	Microtport	87			
380	195	Moneypay	195		3.5	18.8
67	40	NMT	55	- 1		
375	160	Nto Retail Sys	170	- 15	0.5	19.8
156	70	Pace Diamonds	87			
210	162	Policy Master Gp	189			44.0
151	71	Polyrose Pharms	72			
7	2	Prestbury Group	3			43.7
46	9	Proteome Sces	15			
118	69	Q Group	72		0.9	11.5
847	305	Ramco Eny	325	- 17		74.7
137	77	Raphael Zm	107		2.9	14.1
357	130	SBS	145		2.1	14.6
243	138	Science Syst	156		0.9	21.6
47	4	Sibir Energy	5			
65	12	Sodra Petroleum	12	- 2		
94	59	Soapern Ventrs	59		4.8	8.5
89	54	Sports & Oul Media	57			21.9
850	210	Stadium	252		1.0	29.4
155	135	Sutton Harbour	135		3.4	19.1
85	47	Systems Intl	48			15.5
235	132	VDC	135		5.1	11.6
85	25	WML	35			34.3

BRITISH FUNDS

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
100.02	100.00	Treas 7¼% 1998	100.0000		7.25	7.65
102.63	100.37	Treas 9½% 1999	100.3697	-0.0060	9.47	6.55
106.31	101.88	Exch 12¼% 1999	101.8891	-0.0125	12.02	6.31
104.88	102.02	Treas 10½% 1999	102.0288	-0.0004	10.29	6.17
99.99	98.64	Treas 6% 1999	99.5881	+0.0300	6.09	6.01
105.46	103.82	Conv 10¼% 1999	104.1448	+0.0257	9.84	5.88
105.02	102.86	Conv 9% 2000	104.9902	+0.0528	8.86	5.88
105.56	102.22	Treas 8% 2000	105.1613	+0.1134	7.61	5.36
103.84	101.81	Treas 8¾% 2000	103.1102	+0.0530	8.24	5.71
114.83	110.56	Treas 13% 2000	111.4439	+0.0797	11.67	5.53
110.32	107.11	Treas 10% 2001	109.6540	+0.1159	9.12	5.36
105.58	100.71	Treas 7% 2001	105.1659	+0.1793	6.66	5.08
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
107.14	101.42	Treas 7% 2002	106.5083	+0.2197	6.57	4.86
116.82	111.19	Treas 9¾% 2002	115.7308	+0.2202	8.42	5.08
113.65	106.58	Treas 8% 2003	112.6260	+0.2981	7.10	4.86
122.74	115.44	Treas 10% 2003	121.3910	+0.3142	8.24	4.92
114.41	110.80	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	113.0301	+0.1193	10.17	5.38
98.96	90.17	Fund 3½% 1999-04	98.2171	+0.2767	3.56	3.74
124.55	116.53	Conv 9½% 2004	123.3391	+0.4126	7.70	4.90
111.19	101.84	Treas 6¾% 2004	110.3175	+0.4079	6.12	4.75
122.83	113.08	Treas 8½% 2005	121.7872	+0.5293	6.98	4.81
126.15	117.51	Conv 9½% 2005	125.0277	+0.4783	7.60	4.89
134.90	127.49	Treas 12½% 2003-05	133.3407	+0.3147	9.37	4.88
119.06	107.88	Treas 7¾% 2006	117.7524	-0.5689	6.37	4.81
119.86	108.97	Treas 7½% 2006	118.6833	+0.5750	6.53	4.84
110.93	104.96	Treas 8% 2002-06	110.1042	+0.2132	7.27	5.07
125.92	119.81	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	124.6918	+0.2202	9.42	5.06
127.29	114.99	Treas 8½% 2007	125.7652	+0.6315	6.76	4.82
120.28	108.98	Treas 7¼% 2007	118.6563	+0.6474	6.11	4.69
135.17	121.18	Treas 9% 2008	133.3457	+0.7605	6.75	4.73
129.46	113.86	Treas 8% 2009	128.0569	+0.8586	6.25	4.66
115.58	99.44	Treas 6¼% 2010	113.7779	+0.8927	5.49	4.73
141.85	124.09	Conv 9% 2011	139.6959	+1.0713	6.44	4.77
144.30	125.04	Treas 9% 2012	141.9662	+1.1629	6.34	4.78
109.14	93.28	Treas 5½% 2008-12	107.5330	+0.7205	5.11	4.54
130.59	112.61	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	128.3175	+1.0225	6.04	4.82
LONGS (over 15 years)						
136.43	116.50	Treas 8% 2013	133.8917	+1.2653	5.97	4.78
141.24	118.46	Treas 8% 2015	138.3141	+1.5279	5.78	4.70
153.14	127.39	Treas 8¾% 2017	150.1481	+1.7159	5.83	4.78
150.23	121.52	Tr 8% 2021	147.0959	+2.0076	5.44	4.62
UNDATED						
77.19	55.09	War Ln 3½%	73.5008	+1.7786	4.74	
53.84	38.48	Treas 2½%	51.4601	+1.0239	4.86	
82.66	61.16	Consols 4%	80.9040	+1.5644	4.94	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					5%	3%
205.47	194.71	Treas IL 2½% 2001	205.3125	+0.0492	2.31	2.72
205.90	192.34	Treas IL 2½% 2003	205.6114	-0.0983	2.22	2.47
132.63	124.28	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	132.3603	+0.0733	2.16	2.36
227.43	206.54	Treas IL 2% 2006	227.3570	+0.1418	2.18	2.33
208.46	187.06	Treas IL 2½% 2009	208.1539	-0.1889	2.23	2.35
220.34	155.58	Treas IL 2½% 2011	220.0131	+0.2484	2.26	2.36
184.76	162.40	Treas IL 2½% 2013	184.2236	+0.2327	2.28	2.37
203.32	175.38	Treas IL 2½% 2016	202.7362	+0.2442	2.25	2.33
201.32	170.21	Treas IL 2½% 2020	200.8353	+0.3237	2.25	2.32
173.35	142.68	Treas IL 2½% 2024	172.8917	-0.2667	2.21	2.27
171.76	140.65	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	170.8412	+0.2952	2.17	2.23

Source FT Information

Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures at report awaited. Ms significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index



POP

Jools Holland: the man who does everything

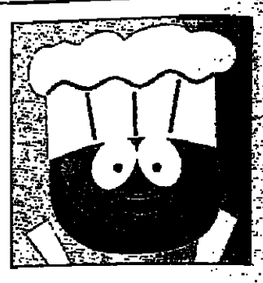
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THE TIMES ARTS

POP

Is comedy really the new rock'n'roll?

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RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

AMERICAN CONTRASTS : Two London premieres are on the programme as Oliver Knussen conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a celebration (tomorrow, 7.30pm) of the life and genius of the American composer Elliott Carter, whose 90th birthday it is next month. On Sunday (same time) Nanci Griffith, offers a heady blend of folk, gospel, soul and hillbilly tunes. Barbican (0171-638 8891).

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Principal conductor elect, Kurt Masur, seals his new relationship with the LPO with a second concert here offering Shostakovich's First Symphony and Strauss's symphonic poem Don Quixote. Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

VIENNA AND THE ROMANTIC CENTURY: The Canadian soprano Nancy Argenta joins the Nash Ensemble in the second concert of the series to sing Schubert's The Shepherd on the Rock, and Alban Berg's Seven Early Songs. Works by Weber and Brahms also feature. Wigmore Hall (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.



Soprano Nancy Argenta sings at the Wigmore

on Tom Jones is still going strong. The show hits Wembley tomorrow. NEC (0121-780 4133). Tonight, 8pm.

LEEDS: Cameron Mackintosh tries again with a revised version of the Boubil/Schönberg Martin Guerre. West Yorkshire Playhouse (0113- 213 7700). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm.

LIVERPOOL: Rita Cuffs, Jean Rigby, Graeme Broadbent and Paul Charles Clarke join the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir as soloists in a performance of Rossini's Stabat Mater. Petr Altrichter conducts. Philharmonic Hall (0151-709 3789). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BELFAST: Two theatrical treats for the festival's closing weekend. At the Lyric Theatre Romeo Castellucci's Julius Caesar is given its British premiere, while at the Waterfront Studio the punk opera Shockheaded Peter begins a mini-run. Festival Box Office: (01232 665577).

BIRMINGHAM: Having clocked up more than three decades in the business the Welsh pop phenomenon

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

◪ **THE BEST OF TIMES:** The Bridewell Theatre's programme of Jerry Herman songs from La Cage aux Folles, Mame, Mack & Mabel and Hello, Dolly! transfers to the West End. Cast includes Kathryn Evans. Vaudeville (0171-836 9987).

■ **LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EUNUCHS:** Denis Lawson directs his nephew Ewan McGregor in David Halliwell's celebrated student fascist play. Hampstead (0171-722 9301). ◪

☐ **SUPPLIANTS:** James Kerr directs his new version of Aeschylus's drama of the daughters of Danaos fleeing from the threat of forced marriage. Gate (0171-229 0706).

■ **INTO THE WOODS:** Sondheim's nightmarish take on favourite fairy tales. John Crowley directs the winter musical. Donmar (0171-369 1732). ◪

☐ **KAFKA'S DICK:** Alan Bennett's anti-biography, with Julia McKenzie, John Gordon-Sinclair and Eric Sykes. Sadly the last production by the Peter Hall Co in its present form. Piccadilly (0171-369 1734).

☐ **LOVE UPON THE THRONE:** The National Theatre of Brent takes us through the courtship of Chas and Di. Intensely comical and touching. Comedy (0171-369 1731).

◪ **THE INVENTION OF LOVE:** John Wood plays the aged A.E. Housman twitting his early self in Tom Stoppard's glittering play. West End transfer for Richard Eyre's National Theatre production. Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800). ◪

■ **THE MAN WHO THINKS HE'S IT:** As a study in embarrassment Steve Coogan has no equal. A dizzyingly inventive show that's rather heavy on the toilet humour. Lyceum (0171-656 1800).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

IF ONLY (15): Wayward but endearing comedy fantasy about an actor granted another chance to succeed with his girlfriend. With Douglas Henshall and Lena Headey.

THE NEGOTIATOR (15): Police hostage negotiator takes hostages himself to prove his innocence. Overblown suspense thriller, with Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey. Director, F. Gary Gray.

OUT OF SIGHT (15): Escaped convict George Clooney finds himself falling for the federal marshal (Jennifer Lopez) on his tail. Dazzling, inventive version of Elmore Leonard's novel. Director, Steven Soderbergh.

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U): Revival of MGM's delicious comedy about a socialite wedding that comes unstuck. With Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart.

SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS (15): Uncouth, disappointing comedy about a downwardly mobile Jewish family in Los Angeles. Tamara Jenkins directs an appealing cast: Natasha Lyonne, Alan Arkin, Marisa Tomei.

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (18): Vampire Jude Law searches London for the perfect partner. Fancy images, but not too edifying. With Elina Lowensöhn and Timothy Spall. Director, Po Chih Leong.

CURRENT

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15): Derivative horror comedy-thriller, with some smart dialogue. Dan Rosen directs Matthew Lillard and Michael Vartan.

THE EEL (18): Shohei Imamura's idiosyncratic and humane drama about a man paroled after serving time for murdering his wife. With Koji Yakusho and Misa Shimizu.

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG): Ayn Rand's hearted novel about a visionary architect, filmed in 1948 with Gary Cooper and Patricia Neal. Grandiose, silly, and compelling. Director, King Vidor.

Singing lesson from a soprano

DONALD COOPER



All together now at ENO: from left, Christopher Maltman, Toby Spence, Mark Beesley, Claire Weston, Lesley Garrett and (front) Gordon Sandison

It is probably a good thing that Jonathan Miller couldn't come to revive his 11-year-old *Barber* production, as he might have found himself in another "diva-versus-director" situation. For those living on another operatic planet, the poor man was recently finessed by New York intriguants into a non-row with Cecilia Bartoli about Mozart's alternative arias in *Figaro* (the diva won hands down). On Wednesday Lesley Garrett sang *Bel raggio* from *Semiramide* in the Lesson Scene, and sang it very prettily; it was only a pity that

OPERA

Barber of Seville

Coliseum

a serious aria was near sent-up by the comic business that has to be part of the scene.

Garrett was reviving an age-old tradition: a previous Coliseum Rosina sang the whole finale of *La donna del lago* in this spot, and Melba used to warble *Home, Sweet Home* "to her own pianoforte accompaniment" as the saying went; heaven knows what the rest of the cast did — probably went down the pub for a snifter. Garrett revived another good old prima donna tradition by demanding a new wig, an elegant auburn job to replace the bleached and recently defunct toy poodle that used to grace Rosinas in this staging. Good for her!

Garrett is, of course, a natural communicator and just about the best ambassador for opera: no one could possibly accuse her being "elitist". Her performance reminded us how sparing she has been with stage appearances recently — just two this year — and to our loss. Beautifully pure tone, sound technique (lots of graceful decorations in repeats), robust comic gifts and — wonder of wonders — every consonant slotted neatly into the vocal lines. Those who maintain that you can't hear words in opera, especially from sopranos, should be made to sit through every performance for the rest of the run.

This was true of the whole cast: ENO has twigged after too long an interval that the "E" is their most significant initial. They not only enunciated the sprightly Holden translation clearly, but delivered it in a way that really earned laughs. Mark Beesley (Basilio) wrapped his teeth round "innuendo" to hilarious effect, and somehow managed to turn "slander" into a lascivious, four-syllable noun. Gordon Sandison (Bartolo), a great comic, was equally resourceful in a revival that, taken as a whole, was notable for really creative singing-acting.

Still, it would have been nice if Miller had been around. The production is efficiently revived, but not exactly homogeneous stylistically, and this, together with Mark Shanahan's very ordinary, *moderato* conducting (the cast kept trying to nudge him on), compromised two important debuts by new company principals. Christopher Maltman (Figaro), Cardiff Singer of the World Lieder Prize winner, has a fine voice but was plainly nervous — forever pointing at the audience is a sure giveaway. He sang full out too much, with little expressive nuance. Toby Spence (Almaviva) negotiated his treacherous opening aria with impressive neatness; his tenor is not huge, but he is naturally musical and a lively stage animal. Both could give a finer showing with firmer musical guidance and the attentions of a director.

But this is a lively revival: he who is tired of the *Barber* is truly tired of life, and I'm not.

RODNEY MILNES

NEW YORK MUSICALS: A 1960s favourite revived, the French Revolution revisited and a *Grease* for the 1990s

Clown who steals the show

The energy unleashed by Martin Short in the Roundabout Theatre Company's production of **Little Me** ought to convince the people who name hurricanes to avoid a Martin for everyone's good. Playing virtually all the men in the life of Faith Prince's buxom Belle Poitrine, Short whizzes on and off stage so much that at times there are two of him.

Primarily, though, he is Noble Eggleston, the ridiculous snob for whom the low-born Belle falls. To win him, she pursues wealth, culture and social position. As Noble tells her in one of author Neil Simon's priceless lines: "I'll wait for you forever, because that's how long I think it'll take you."

Grounded in burlesque, this 1962 musical needs a great clown, and Short pulls off every schtick in the book. Yet he does more. When his bedfuddled Fred Poitrine, a near-blind doughboy, kisses Belle and then sings *Real Live Girl*, one of the standards in Cy Coleman and Carolyn Leigh's fine score, he switches the tone effortlessly. Suddenly director Rob Marshall's finely choreographed silliness gives way to aching poignancy. It is no fault of the talented supporting cast that their multiple roles pale next to those of Short. Only Michael Park's charming Lucky, who seduces Belle with a torrid striptease to *I've Got Your Number*, makes a large-scale impression.

Class also separates the lovers in the new musical **Footloose** at the Richard Rodgers Theatre. Jeremy Kushnier's Ren, a transplanted Chicagoan, faces small-town insularity as he objects to a ban on dancing instituted by a powerful minister, whose daughter Ren falls for. The plot about high-school students battling generational prejudice has nothing new to say, apart from the paranoid hint that a society that bans dancing teeters on the brink of fascism.

In spite of its more serious intentions and director Walter Bobbie's lively staging, *Footloose* feels like a *Grease* for the 1990s. Dean Pitchford and Tom Snow's score draws on everything from country and western to disco, with a nod to classic Broadway. As Ren's mop-haired, redneck buddy Willard, the scene-stealing Tom Plotkin has an old-fashioned novelty song called *Mamma Says* — the kind of number Stubby Kaye might have sung in the 1950s.

Rebellion also features in **The Scarlet Pimpernel** (Minskoff Theatre), but this time it's the French Revolution. After opening last season to negative reviews, *Pimpernel* has been retooled to sharpen the love triangle between Douglas Sills's dashing macaroni Percy, his wife Marguerite, and the villainous Frenchman Chauvelin. Two cast improvements are major. Rachel York makes a winning, frustrated Marguerite, loved and mistrusted by Percy's Pimpernel and by Rex Smith's bitter Chauvelin. Smith is an exciting presence, but his considerable charisma cannot disguise that the part is one note. Even his seduction of Marguerite comes off as a ploy.

Early on, the Pimpernel rouses his mates with a speech about liberty and the importance of fighting injustice that might be a call to action in the Balkans. All semblance of seriousness quickly dissolves, though, as director Robert Longbottom focuses on romance and laughs.

Jane Greenwood's new fops' costumes make the men look like cobalt giraffes and magenta leopards, and Sills and his mates strut and burble to such excess that even Jerry Falwell might complain of an anti-gay bias. By the time Marguerite picks up a sword and takes on Chauvelin to save Percy, the antics will have become tiresome to anyone without a family in tow.

EDWARD KARAM

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Mast... an...

Timeless ta...

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THEATRE
Salomé
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Forget outreach, what about some teachers?

IN THE ARTS



RICHARD MORRISON

It sometimes takes a blinking idiot to point out the blindingly obvious. Today I cast myself (or typecast myself, as my colleagues would say) in that role. But first, the story so far. The Government, through its poodles and placemen at the Arts Council, is putting pressure on subsidised arts organisations to be more "accessible", to find new audiences and to rid themselves of their "middle-class, middle-aged" image.

That's not just an ideological obsession, of course: it's also pure panic. Nearly 2,000 lottery projects will soon open — an investment of billions of pounds by the United Kingdom of Great Bingoland. If those new audiences aren't found damn quick, 2,000 lottery projects will swiftly become 2,000 mausoleums, and the arts sector will collapse under the weight of its own vainglorious ambitions.

Hence the urgent interest in "accessibility". Everyone is desperately seeking the magic key that opens the hearts and minds of millions to the joys of late Schoenberg and early Strindberg. The hills are alive with the sound of voucher schemes and outreach initiatives and marketing wheezes.

I don't want to knock this sudden missionary enthusiasm. One only wishes that it had happened a little earlier in the 60-year history of taxpayer-funded arts in Britain.

But — and this is the "stating the obvious" bit — if you want to make fine wine, you need fine grapes. And if you want to create a cultured nation, you first create cultured children. You grasp my drift. The arts will never find those "new audiences" while this Government, like its predecessor, persists in encouraging state schools to sideline the arts into invisibility.

More evidence of that sorry state, if more were needed, comes this week in *The Disappearing Arts?*, a survey by Rick Rogers for the Royal Society of Arts. Its observations are horrifying. The recruitment of music teachers for secondary schools is predicted to fall 23 per cent below target this year. Many teacher-training institutions are actually abandoning specialist training in music and art.

The changes in the mandatory primary school curriculum, relegating music, dance, drama and art in favour of yet more slogging on spelling and arithmetic, has persuaded some schools to drop music altogether and many more to cut back on the time allocated to such "luxuries". Not surprisingly, demand among teachers for in-service training in the arts has dropped by 85 per cent. Many of these courses have consequently been dropped in the past year.

And so it goes on. "Too narrow a focus in the teaching of primary school children is squeezing the arts out of the curriculum," says the RSA, and suggests many excellent remedies — none of which will be taken up, if I know anything about the British way of life. Add all this to the damage inflicted by the widespread withdrawal of peripatetic instrumental teaching and you have a dismal picture.

Yes, many of Britain's galleries and performing companies are doing fantastic educational work. But that can only be an icing on the cake, and then only for a small percentage of children. It can't replace proper classroom teaching.

If this cultural disaster was happening uniformly across Britain it would still be ghastly, but at least it would be fair dinkums all round. But it isn't. What makes this state of affairs rather obscene is the cultural apartheid it perpetuates. On the one hand are the private schools and those nice, affluent state schools to which Prime Ministers and influential journalists send their kids. They, of course, have purpose-built theatres and well-staffed music departments and all the other trappings of a civilised, well-rounded education.

On the other hand, what? Thousands of state schools with no cash, no culture and no teaching incentive except to grind the three Rs into their little charges so that the school can climb a few places up some accursed league table. What sort of education is that? Children probably got more nourishment for the soul and food for the imagination in Stalin's Soviet Union.

Do we really expect that, having denied children a taste of the arts in their formative years, we can lure them into the theatre, concert hall and opera house when they have to pay serious money? If we do, we are mad. You reap what you sow in education, as in life. Tony Blair sees a pressing need to put an Internet terminal in every school, but not a music teacher. When his Government boasts about supporting the serious arts, would somebody remind him of that small but fatal misjudgment?

Risible spectacle of the week? That accolade must go to all those supposedly wild and free-thinking playwrights publicly wrestling with their consciences at the prospect of their beloved Royal Court Theatre being renamed the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre in order to receive yet another seven-figure handout.

It seems that the words "royal court", which the rest of us consider a little redolent of Marie Antoinette and powdered footmen, in fact have a strangely radical ring in Luvvieland — a quality that would be *entirely* dissipated by adding the word Jerwood. So a charitable foundation proffering £3 million (to get the pampered Royal Court out of a hole entirely of its own making) may be told to get stuffed. Good grief. Sometimes luvvies deserve every scrap of contempt that the tabloids can fling.

I suggest that the Jerwood Foundation presents its £3 million to the beleaguered Sir Peter Hall instead — or Sir Jerwood Hall, as he will subsequently be known. Without a penny of state subsidy his company has done wonders for London's theatre life. It actually deserves the dosh. As for the Royal Court, well, it has long been home to rebels without a cause. Now it seems to be run by rebels without a clue.

Master of sinew and muscle

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork revels in the vigorous work of the Italian painter Luca Signorelli

To see Luca Signorelli at his impassioned zenith, a visit to Orvieto is essential. There, in one of Italy's most dramatic hilltop cities, he painted an astounding fresco cycle for the cathedral. The commission took five years, from 1499 to 1504, covering the walls of the Cappella Nova where Fra Angelico had painted the ceiling 50 years before. But by the time Signorelli had completed it, Angelico's gentle, statuesque piety had given way to an invigorating alternative. For Signorelli marked the advent of a new century with a radical, fiercely inventive vision, whose dynamism would profoundly influence Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel decorations for decades to come.

Many of the sinewy figures galvanising the Cappella Nova have been seized by an apocalyptic frenzy. They are the despairing victims of *The End of the World*, and their eloquence testifies to Signorelli's command of the energetic male nude *in extremis*. By bringing together his work in British collections alone, the National Gallery's exhibition cannot hope to convey the full exhilaration of a pilgrimage to Orvieto. But an accompanying film gives a notion of the frescoes' visceral impact, and several of his drawings reveal the same command of writhing, muscular form. One celebrated black chalk study, supposedly showing the struggle between Hercules and Antaeus, may even have originated in preparations for the Cappella Nova's *The Torments of the Damned*. The drawing's air of ferocious spontaneity is underpinned by steely calculation, contrasting the anguish of one figure with the lethal resolve of his conqueror.

The only painting in the National Gallery survey to make a male nude its central focus is an early work. Part of an altarpiece commissioned by the wealthy Bichi family in Siena, it shows a lamentation over the dead Christ. The martyred corpse slumped on the earth is conspicuously sensual. He recalls the languorous, detumescent man in Botticelli's sly painting of *Mars and Venus*, but His limp body is surrounded by the forms of grief-maddened women. Although this predella panel is modest in size, the figures seem to burst from its confines. Their exclamatory emotion belongs to a far larger image, and Signorelli demonstrated his command of a monumental surface in a grand altarpiece two years later.

Painted for the oratory of a lay confraternity in Volterra, it depicts *The Circumcision*. Signorelli had been a pupil of Piero della Francesca, from whom he must have gained his sophisticated grasp of pictorial space. And he leads our eyes deep into the scene along a startlingly multicoloured marble floor. The sense of recession is heightened by the robed woman on the right, arrested in the act of walking barefoot towards the Christ child. Her raised left heel seems to respond to the tension enlivening the group beyond. Enhanced by the almost metallic definition of draperies, this suspenseful mood impels most of the figures to stare down at the naked infant.

> 'The Vatican consigned Signorelli to obscurity'

He is handled in a softer style by the Sienese artist "Il Sodoma" who was asked to repaint the child in the late 1530s. Nobody knows why, but technical examination by the National Gallery has disclosed that Signorelli originally intended the infant to adopt a different pose. He was meant to lean away from the man administering the circumcision. Then the pose was changed to a more relaxed and welcoming alternative. Sodoma's subsequent reworking gives him a sweetness smoother than anything the tough-minded Signorelli would have approved.

He was the ideal artist to portray Niccolo Vitelli, the brutal mercenary commander who bullied his way to become the Pope's representative in Citta di Castello. Signorelli painted him posthumously in the 1490s, as a white-haired yet menacing presence. He looks cruel enough to eliminate any opposition to his ruthless ascendancy.

Around the same time, though, Signorelli showed the more tender side of his imagination in a large *Adoration of the Shepherds*, painted for a Citta di Castello church. Recent cleaning has revealed an extra angel, who now joins the adoring group gathered so tightly around Virgin and offspring. Covered up by a 19th-century restorer, the angel certainly makes the composition look more congested.

Signorelli must have wanted to convey fervency, but his design lacks the clarity that distinguishes *The Circumcision*. He reserves his most inventive powers for the rocks surging fantastically above the group, and for the plants observed with a limpid delicacy inspired, perhaps, by Hugo van der Goes's great Portinari altarpiece in Florence.

Extensive damage has made Signorelli's frescoes in the so-called *camera bella* at Siena impossible to assess. Two of them now belong to the National Gallery, and their initial fame suggests that they were once consummate enough to gratify the ruler who commissioned them: Pandolfo Petrucci. Now, however, their faded figures lack the vitality of Signorelli's finest work. He travelled to Rome in 1513, hoping for patronage from the new Pope. But Leo X was too enamoured of Michelangelo and Raphael. He even ordered the destruction of an earlier Signorelli fresco, so that Raphael could paint on the same wall.

Such was the audacity with which the High Renaissance was now developing that senior artists often found themselves dismissed as irredeemably old-fashioned. Now in his sixties, Signorelli was consigned to oblivion by the Vatican. Michelangelo had to lend him money, and he then turned back to his provincial home town of Cortona.

He obtained commissions to support his old age, but a late altarpiece shows just how dull the elderly Signorelli had become. Painted in 1515 for a French doctor, in return for "good and free [medical] services that he had received and would receive in the future", it is a dutiful exercise. Everyone assembled on its surface looks bored — even the semi-naked Saint Sebastian, whose athletic, arrow-pierced body would once have given Signorelli plenty of stimulus. Over-reliant now on assistants, he seems most alive in depicting the fertile landscape stretching towards a lake fringed by castellated buildings and misty hills.

Otherwise, though, this dogged painting remains a sad affair. Unlike Michelangelo, the ageing Signorelli was unable to renew himself with the violent, aspiring boldness he commanded in his prime.

● *Signorelli at the National Gallery (0171-839 3321) until Jan 31*



NATIONAL GALLERY

Luca Signorelli's *The Circumcision:* the artist probably gained his grasp of pictorial space from Piero della Francesca

Timeless take on perversion

THEATRE

Salomé
Riverside Studio



MARILYN KINGWILL

Emily Woof and Greg Hicks in a stylised revival of Wilde's tragedy

Since I have found it a good rule always to mistrust a production that begins with a man in a string vest on a plain-looking ladder, especially if the ladder is isolated on a big, brick-lined stage and the man and his vest are perched below a single spotlight, my spirits slumped a bit at the opening of Mick Gordon's revival of Oscar Wilde's tragedy. Wasn't the very simplicity ostentatious, the spareness pretentious, given the opulence of the words and the wilful decadence of the plot, not to mention stage directions that demand moons, big black clouds and slaves with torches?

As it turned out, no, not at all. Strangeness need not, after all, consist of exotic decor and a cast list featuring innumerable Nubians and Nazarenes. Enough to pare down Lord Alfred Douglas's translation of Wilde's original French, present us with a few good, intense actors in slightly eccentric modern dress and leave our imaginations to fill in the gaps. That is Gordon's way, and, on the whole, it works.

It works especially well when Tristan Sturrock's Jokanaan, or John the Baptist, is raging up and into a mike that makes the theatre echo with his anguish, or when Emily Woof's Salomé summons him from his ladder, a pale figure whose glinting, dark-rimmed eyes might have come from Waco or Jonestown. It works when Greg Hicks's Herod is padding about in his long, black coat, blending authority with insecurity, or palpitating with sensuality, or lurching with sickened dismay as Salomé reveals her exorbitant dance-fee.

The approach is stylised and yet often surprisingly immediate. Several times I noted almost comic banalities of speech that had surely been inserted by Gordon — "come, Salomé, be reasonable, I've never been hard to you" — only to find on checking that they were Bosie's own. As a result *Salomé* emerges, not as some musky epic from the remote biblical jungles, but as an oddly intimate tale of perverse drives and irresistible desires within a family which no doubt has its analogues in our own era.

Sometimes it all goes too far. When Woof was spiralling about in her white trouser suit, I felt that the *Dance of the Seven Veils* was in danger of becoming an attempt by a rather fey tennis professional to limber up for the next day's match. Her Salomé lacks fierceness; and yet one believes in this slim, mocking girl's selfishness and her emotional dilettantism and her morbid fascination with the strange and different. Add Veronica Quilligan as a podgy, sneering Herodias, and you have a production that justifies Gordon's decision to export examples of his work from his home theatre, the Gate, to the warehouse of Riverside Studios. It deserves the larger audience he wants.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Middle-aged chemistry thrills

Theatre Upstairs
Pleasance, N7

SOHO Theatre Company's four-week stay here (up London's Caledonian Road and turn left) ends with an exceptionally good play, 90 minutes of increasingly enthralling display of feelings between a 46-year-old spinster of Irish descent and an exile from Falkirk of about the same age.

Terms of Abuse, Jessica Townsend's first play, received mixed reviews for its attempt to probe the psychology of a couple resembling Fred and Rosemary West, a task requiring the skills of Shakespeare or Sophocles. Here we have Noreen (Gabrielle Reidy), patiently looking after her crotchety granny (Bridget Turner) while longing for something she knows not what, and Fulton (John Stahl), mooching through the cemetery on his daily journeys between the Cross Keys and the Pig & Peasant.

Jonathan Fensom's design is no more than a bath, washbasin and toilet, clumped together in the middle of the stage, ringed with a scattering of autumn leaves, and when Noreen rushes on at the start of the play, ups her skirt, downs her tights and sits on the loo — cue for the sound of falling water — I feared the worst for the play that would follow.

What immediately follows is Granny, tottering along to discover what keeps her away from the house for hours at a time. It is a longing for silence, we discover, and this need, far more insistent than a wish to have a bit of time to herself, arches over the play and returns at the end, when her life has been changed by a man who cannot disguise his astonishment that such a plain, religous, peculiar woman has similarly changed his.

Reidy's pink, round face, a stranger to make-up, looks as if tears (of grief? wonder?) are never far away. It is lovely to watch the way her hands move, and Stahl's too; revealing hesitation, desire, and all the conflicts between *ought not* and *maybe might*. An hilarious yet entirely serious scene in a confessional with Father O'Ryan (Gary Lilburn) points her dilemma: might fornication in a cemetery be granted God's approval? Father doesn't think so at all, not at all, but surely Noreen (the saint) is on the side of the angels?

Townsend's ear is attuned to the tricky tenderness existing between Noreen and her piping Granny, but even more remarkable is her understanding of the ways in which the good-hearted Scottish boozer finds himself so unexpectedly affected. Directed by Polly Teale with zealous care for the significance of glance and gesture, *Angels and Saints* and its players fuse together in a thrilling artistic chemistry.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Set on a collision course to nowhere

Theatre Upstairs
Royal Court, WC1

INSTEAD of programme notes, you are given a postcard that reads simply: "A head-on collision between two women who can't see that they are exactly the same."

The two women in question are Claire Dowie and Peta Lily, who occupy what look like two restaurant tables about ten yards apart on the Drill Hall stage. The idea of them ramming into each other has a certain preposterous entertainment value, but this proves as misleading as the claim that they are alike. Which they're not. Lily is a fragrant, power-dressing yuppie; Dowie is a shifty, manly-looking 39-year-old in jeans and a brown leather jacket that is far too big.

"Why did you come?" asks Lily, slipping off her kimono and wriggling on a black skirt and matching jacket.

"Curiosity," says Dowie, jiggling her knee. "Curiosity killed the cat," says Lily. "Better a cat than a bitch," says Dowie. And so it goes. A needling match rather than a boxing match in which the two women — former lovers, we discover — try to harpoon each other's feminist credentials and end up missing by miles.

With no context to speak of, this competition (to call it a power-struggle would be far too dramatic) about who has the upper hand feels half-baked at best. It seems to be years since they last met, such is their awkwardness and aggression. Relying entirely on whisking past sexual misdemeanours out of a hat, and cynically debunking each other's inflated ideas of post-feminism, the two go at each other like a couple of fifth-formers behind the bike sheds. Perhaps the most theatrical aspect of Colin Watkeys's production is that the audience isn't sure whether they're meant to be eavesdroppers or jurors, or just plain unlucky.

Stumbling over their lines and heating up like dodgy pressure cookers, they gradually make it clear that their adolescent affair was partly responsible for launching their lives and careers on wildly differing trajectories, and that their personal revolutions stem from teenage jealousies. Oh, and that they listened to records rather than each other.

Boyish, scraggy and churlish to the end, Dowie's rebel without a plot wears her chips all too heavily on her slumped shoulders. Lily wears her jaded Thatcherite glamour like armour. If they did collide, it would presumably be Camden council which would have to pick up the mess.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

■ POP INTERVIEW
Travels with Holland

Rootin' round from the delta to the estuary

Jools Holland tells **Nigel Williamson** why South London is as good as Mississippi if you need a shot of rhythm and blues

Television presenter, broadcaster, author and media celebrity Jools Holland's passport describes him simply as a musician, and that remains his own preferred description. "Television programmes come and go," he says. "Touring with a band is what I've done since I was 15. It's my real living and it is what I know best. You see people dancing and you know you have communicated exactly what you wanted to. I still find that exciting."

Holland, who had a string of hit singles in his early days with Squeeze, is currently on a 30-date trek around Britain's concert halls with his 16-piece Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. There is also a new "best of" album, collecting both his big-band and solo work. He is in the middle of the twelfth season of *Later with Jools Holland* on BBC2 and last night he began a new BBC2 series called *Beat Route*.

Over the course of six programmes of this part travelogue and part musical documentary, Holland gets to play with the veteran Cuban pianist Ruben Gonzalez in Havana and with the great concert pianist Zoltan Kocsis in Budapest. In Beirut he finds the Lebanese Spice Girls, and in Chicago he searches out the graves of such jazz greats as Jimmy Yancey and Albert Ammons. He has also just published a book of his musical travels to tie in with the series.

"Doing the series was fascinating because it took me to all these musical places and it made me think about where I come from," he says. "I wondered what the unique sound of London is and it has to be British rhythm and blues. I would say the Thames Basin is as good as the Mississippi Delta for R&B."

The idea that New Cross rivals New Orleans as a musical mecca is not a widely held view, and I wonder if Holland is pulling my leg. But no, he has an entire theory. "You can draw a line on the map where the German bombs dropped and I think that South London heritage from the war is the beginnings of British R&B. Keith Richards comes from Dartford and a V2 bomb dropped just after he was born and hit the house next door. He slept right through it. When I was growing up in Deptford, I spent a lot of time with my grandmother. Her street was bombed and a lot of people were killed. Her windows were blown in and the piano which I learnt on in her front room was still blackened from the blast. Something about that experience had a profound effect."

But isn't British R&B a pale imitation of an American form? "But that's the whole point," he says. "Keith Richards says he tries to play like Chuck Berry but he can't. It comes out different, which is what makes it great, because instead of being a straight copy, it comes out sounding totally original and British. It's the same with my band. We might try and edge in the direction of Count Basie but we can never sound like him. It comes out as our own sound."

The trouble and expense of maintaining a big orchestra is considerable, so why doesn't Holland make life simpler by touring as a trio or quartet? "It started as two people but it kept on growing," he says. "Having an orchestra is hard work, it needs watering and feeding, but it nurtures you, too. I can see why people such as Count Basie had big bands. Nothing else quite has that sound. And the age ranges from 24 to 65, so you've got a tremendous diversity of influences and experiences within the band."

Does he get frustrated that many people know him as a television personality rather than a working musician? "I understand it. When we started, we used to go into a pub in Deptford or Greenwich, take a couple of guitars and start playing. If the publican liked us, he would say, 'Come back Saturday'. We would take our mates along and he'd pay us £15. Now we can play to 30,000 people on this tour. But I can reach two million people on television."

Indeed, Holland seems to have cornered the market. Why, despite the rise of MTV, does mainstream television make so few decent music programmes? "They don't get a huge audience, they are expensive and not easy to get right," he says. "I think *Later* does a great job but it wouldn't do any harm to have a competitor. The BBC has become the natural home of good music on the box. Commercial television is doing it less and less."

Over the six years that he has been fronting *Later*, Holland has accompanied everyone from B.B. King to Björk. It is his show, so none of his illustrious guests can really refuse. But is there anyone he still harbours an unfulfilled ambition to play with? "Gladys Knight," he says without hesitation. "She's just got the greatest voice. Ray Charles is up there, too, but I think I'm content just to watch him. I know I've got the best job in the world. I get to meet the greatest musicians of the century and play with them and learn from them. I hope some of it sinks in."

● Jools Holland — The Best Of *is on Coalition Records. The Jools Holland Rhythm and Blues Orchestra is on tour until Dec 30*



Have piano, will travel: Jools Holland hitches a lift around the musical globe during the making of his new television series *Beat Route*

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CHANGING TIMES

Fiery famous five

BURTON/COREA/ METHENY/ HAYNES/HOLLAND
Like Minds
(Concord Jazz CCD-4803-2)
RECORDED in December 1997, this all-star session is clearly sparked by Chick Corea's and Gary Burton's extraordinary musical rapport, but sustains its fire courtesy of the basic compatibility that exists between five of jazz's most accomplished musicians. Thus, while Burton's tumblingly inventive vibes and Corea's sparkling Yamaha CF3 produce the fleet, joyous music for which they have become famous, Pat Metheny – whose idea this recording was – proves yet again that he is one of the most versatile guitarists in jazz, and an exemplary rhythm section – bassist

JAZZ ALBUMS

Dave Holland and drummer Roy Haynes – fairly bristle with controlled but powerfully propulsive energy.

JOHN SURMAN
John Surman: How Many Clouds Can You See? : Tales of the Algonquin
(Deram 844 884-2, 844 882-2; 844 883-2)
PART of the same series as the recent early Mike Westbrook recordings, these 1969-71 albums by John Surman feature many of the same personnel – saxophonists Mike Osborne, Alan Skidmore, trombonist Malcolm Griffiths, drummer Alan Jackson, etc – and also organise much of their vigorously inventive music into suites. Surman's small-group work on *Clouds*, however, demonstrates just how powerful he was, even at the start of his career, on his trademark baritone. With *Tales of the Algonquin* given over to John Warren's compositions for a Surman-led 16-piece, these reissues demonstrate just how lively the British jazz scene was in the early 1970s

CHRIS PARKER

Know any good songs about toasters?

Modern music ignores our humble household appliances. In Mongolia, of course, they know better



CAITLIN MORAN

As worries about minorities go, it's not the noblest. I could be devoting good Worry Time to the agonies genuine political refugees go through getting asylum in this country. But instead, I worry about the music researchers on *Watchdog*.

You see, while finding music to soundtrack a piece on cars or pension plans is just a question of getting out *Driving in My Car* by Madness or *Money Money Money* by Abba, the agonies they go through when there's a problem with a fridge-freezer that mysteriously defrosts on the first of every month has me in a tense, tangled knot. With all the billions of songs in the world, there isn't one that deals with fridges. *Watchdog* cobbled something together in the end, of course – *Ice Ice Baby* by Vanilla Ice – but it still points to something wrong in English-language music. We only seem to cover three subjects: love, good or bad; life being dreary; or being off your face on a Friday night.

It's not like that in other countries. I've got an album, *Shu-de*, by a collective of Mongolian throat-singers, and they seem to have a limitless supply of topics: their horses; the mountains; the journey from Tuvan to China; their horses; a shaman's conversation with the trees and birds.

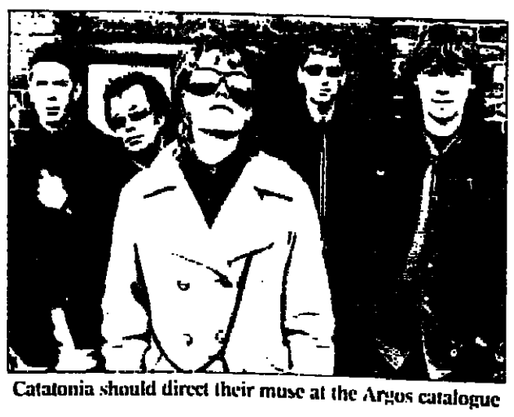
Well OK, it's not a limitless supply: they've really got a thing about horses. But you get the idea. Even in Britain, before pop 'n' rock, we used to cover more of the life cycle than the small, tawdry segment where one gets very drunk in a nightclub, takes a young lady into the car park, gets kicked in the trousers by her boyfriend and spends the next day feeling rather glum. The mighty Topic Records box set, *The Voice of the People*, is a collection of old English folk song, and the subjects covered there are vast: where to poach; the best days to harvest; the beauty of a well-laid fire; the glen-clearances in the Highlands; taking a young maid-o into the fields and rolling her round in the hay-diddle-day.

Of course, in these areas music wasn't just for dancing, loving or weeping to; it was a means of passing on information, rumour, history and myth. In the First World, in the late 20th century, we have television, books, film and the media, and song isn't the only information superhighway available to us.

But then, it is when you're 14. My entire teenage life was conducted between the Boo Radleys's peppy "If you want it, take it now" and Ride's admonishing "Sometimes you must accept that you can't get what you want", and my nascent shoplifting career became very confused as a result. Consequently, anyone who can pen a song that's clearly and simply about something stands to make pots of money. Part of Catatonia's immense success this year is down to their keen eye for popular culture: *Mulder and Scully*, *Road Rage* – only B-sides called *Windows '98* and *(Alleged) Westminster Gay Mafia* could have ensured them more vital airplay on *Watchdog*.

You can get too specific though. On Gloria Estefan's *Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me* album, the mighty Glo tells the epic story of her little sister's unfortunate medical condition. Estefan minor, you see, once began burping uncontrollably while slow-dancing with the man of her dreams, and romantic disappointment swiftly followed. Now, that's too specific. *Watchdog Healthcheck* will never do an item about uncontrollable burping.

In the meantime, I'd like to help the poor, frazzled music researcher on *Watchdog*. Next time you have a report on a dodgy Hoover, may I suggest, in the absence of any dedicated vacuuming songs, *You Suck* by the Yeastie Girls? It's about something very, very rude; but until Catatonia get on the case by writing an album based around the contents of the Argos catalogue, you can't look a gift horse in the mouth. Unless you're a Mongolian throat-singer; in which case you probably do that sort of thing just for fun.



Catatonia should direct their muse at the Argos catalogue

Dazzled

Only the Spice Girls have put more bums on seats in the UK this year than Tunde Baiyewu and Paul Tucker. After tomorrow's homecoming show in Newcastle, the Lighthouse Family will have played to 225,000 people in 1998. Not to mention the three million copies of their two albums that have slipped into the CD trays of a nation in the past two and a half years.

Their airy MOR style, set in train after a couple of false starts with the 1996 success of *Lifted*, has laid the duo bare to accusations of self-satisfied musical conservatism. As if they need worry. The public appetite for their product is insatiable, but the Family and friends work extremely hard at feeding it. This was their second Wembley engagement of the year and the seventh UK arena date on a schedule that also stretched across seven other European countries.

Early-comers had the bonus of a support slot by Karen Ramirez, one of the year's most refreshing pop discoverers, who showcased her charming *Distant Dreams* album in the Arena's unenviable wide open spaces. Her lack of live experience was occasionally evident, but songs such as the Latin-inflected *Troubled Girl* look well for her future, and a stripped-back version of her

NEW MUSIC: Gerald I

"I HAVE discovered," Arvo Pärt has observed, "that it is enough when a single note is played beautifully." Many notes, most of them by Pärt, have been beautifully sung and played by the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. They have not been enough.

It is true that impressively large audiences came to the concerts to indulge themselves in Pärt's asceticism and, to judge by their reactions, found some kind of spiritual refreshment in his pared, minimally elaborated, self-consciously pure settings of religious texts. It is also true that these works do offer a refuge from the real world. But for how long they do that depends entirely on the temperament of the individual member of the congregation. For those who find it difficult to believe in cults and who look to the Huddersfield Festi-

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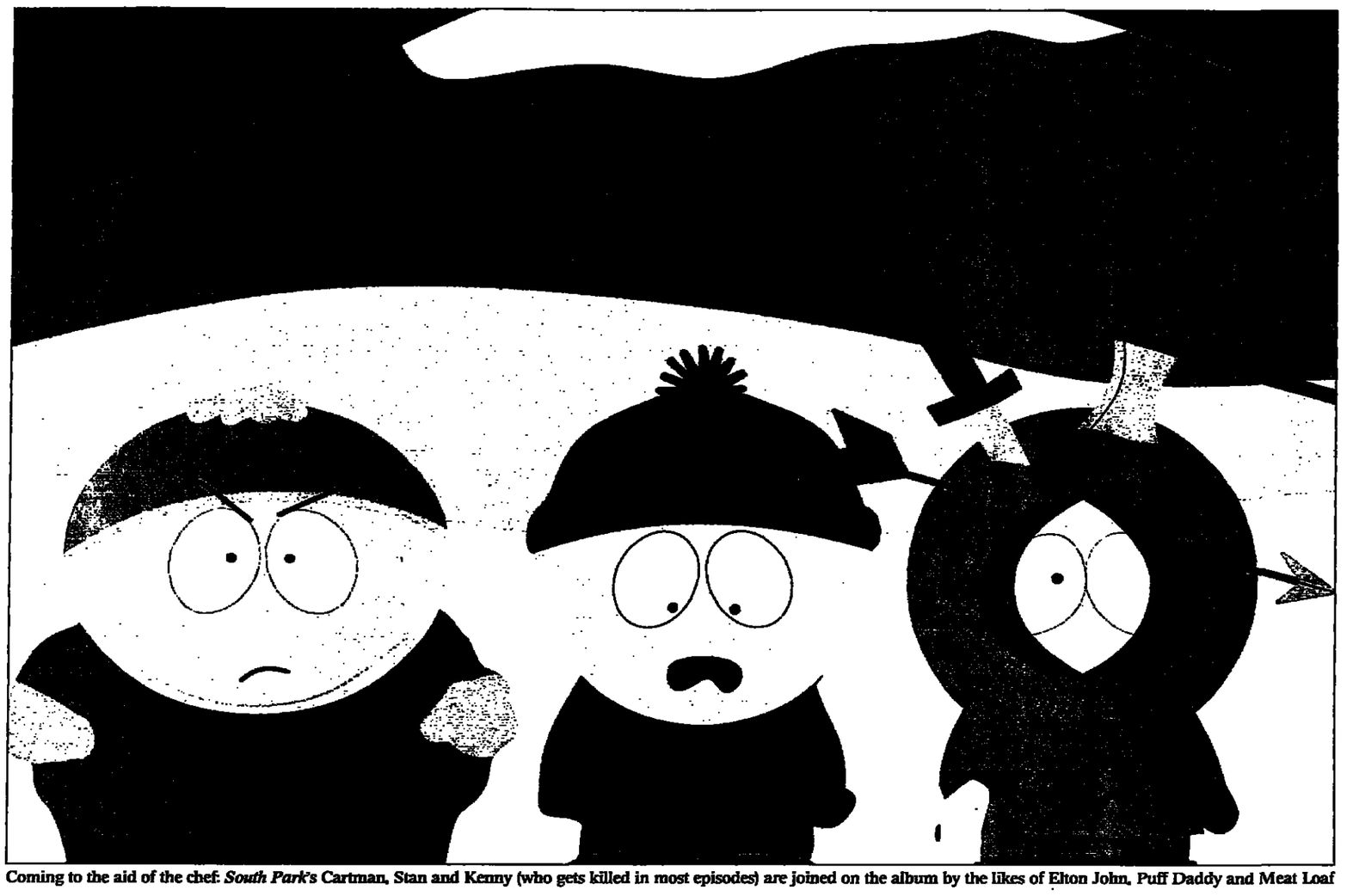
■ POP ALBUMS
Cartoon capers

ARTS

■ POP GIG
Happy Family

NEW POP ALBUMS: America's *South Park* cartoon may be cult TV viewing, but the joke wears terribly thin in rock'n'roll, says **David Sinclair**

Killing Kenny and the rest of us



Coming to the aid of the chef: *South Park*'s Cartman, Stan and Kenny (who gets killed in most episodes) are joined on the album by the likes of Elton John, Puff Daddy and Meat Loaf

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Chef Aid: The South Park Album
(American/Columbia 491700 £14.49)

COMEDY may not be the new rock'n'roll, but the two have become increasingly cosy bedfellows in the years since Beavis and Butt-Head began lampooning the values and videos of the MTV generation. An audience has grown up (physically, anyway) for whom musical Year Zero was marked by the first Beastie Boys album, and it is this adolescent constituency, with its taste for heavy rock and rap music liberally laced with a brattish sense of humour, that has been successfully wooed by the crudely drawn characters and puerile in-jokes of the cult TV cartoon series *South Park*. Now comes *Chef Aid: The South Park Album*.

Loosely structured as a "benefit concert" on behalf of the Chef character (played with laconic wit by Isaac Hayes), the album accommodates a diverse cast of performers ranging from superannuated heavy rocker Ozzy Osbourne to rap star *du jour* Wyclef Jean, along with a raft of dependably eccentric American groups including Primus, Ween and Devo.

Executive producer Rick Rubin has a finely tuned ear for this kind of thing, and manages to coax some surprisingly substantial performances from Elton John on *Wake Up Wendy*, and an unholy alliance of Mase, Puff Daddy, Lil' Kim and System of a Down on a thundering rap-rock number called *Will They Die 4 You*.

But the trouble with comedy albums is that they rarely stand up to repeated exposure, and this one is no exception. The silly-voice versions of Bad Company's *Feel Like Makin' Love* and Styx's *Come Sail Away*, performed by characters from the show, are immediately irritating, while other jokey set pieces, such as *Kenny's Dead* (a retooled version of Curtis Mayfield's *Freddie's Dead*) and a duet between Chef and Meat Loaf on *Tonight Is Right For Love*, do not take much longer to pall.

Chef's detailed recipe for *Chocolate Salty Balls* does have a rude vigour which is typical of the album. But frankly, it might make sense to stick them in your ears.

THE LANCE GAMBIT TRIO
Cocktail 2000
(Music For Leisure MFLCD03 £11.99)

WHILE outright comedy can be difficult to pull off in a pop environment, irony is not a problem. Operating in much the same vein as the Mike Flowers Pops, though sadly without the rug, the Lance Gambit Trio offers a selection of instrumental lounge-bar arrangements of 1990s hits by artists such as Blur, Robbie Williams, the Verve, the Spice Girls, Aqua and Oasis. Gambit's piano playing is stiff and colourless, and if there is such a drummer as Tommy Monk, he sounds more like a drum machine than most drum machines do. But you could imagine any of these recordings happily being piped through the corridors of Ikea.

The real joke is how such treatments expose the paucity of melodic and harmonic interest in some songs — *Return Of The Mack*, *D'You Know What I Mean*, *Parklife* and others — while highlighting the solid, essentially traditional foundations of others — notably *Say You'll Be There* and *The Drugs Don't Work*.

THE TAMPERER FEATURING MAYA
Fabulous
(Pepper/Jive 053016 £13.49)

TAKE away an additional Klubbheads Klubb Mix of their No 1 hit *Feel It*, tacked on at the end, and the debut album by Italian DJ duo the Tamperer clocks in at just 32 minutes; a slender offering, although it seems longer.

Like so much European disco music, *Fabulous* is a cleverly tweaked, of-the-moment product which relies heavily on old ideas. *Feel It* is based on a sample of the Jacksons' *Can You Feel It*, while *Get Up Get It On* borrows the horn riff from the Four Tops' *Reach Out (I'll Be There)*. The duo's own compositions are scarcely more original.

Typically, the music is set to a rigid disco beat so unyielding that it sounds more like a square-bashing drill than the sound track to a night on the tiles.

The comely Maya then supplies a suitably thought-provoking slogan — "What's she going to look like with a chimney on her?" is her most successful so far — and *voild*, another hit is in the bag.

Hastily assembled and rushed into the shops in time for the party season, *Fabulous* is a blatant smash and grab raid on the yule funds. They should have called themselves the Plunderer.

ROBYN HITCHCOCK
Storefront Hitchcock — Music from the Jonathan Demme Picture
(Warner Bros 9362-46846 £15.99)

ALTHOUGH doomed forever to roam the cult hinterlands along with fellow English folk-rock eccentrics such as Roy Harper, Robyn Hitchcock still has the clout to play the Queen Elizabeth Hall next Monday and to get film director Jonathan Demme (*Silence of the Lambs*) to make a documentary about him.

Recorded live in a New York shop window, and punctuated by rambling, surreal monologues, *Storefront Hitchcock* is the soundtrack to Demme's movie, and captures the former Soft Boy in full idiosyncratic flight. From the "jittery" histrionics of *Freeze* to a surprisingly tender version of Jimi Hendrix's *The Wind Cries Mary*, Hitchcock maintains a fitful momentum without ever disclosing what exactly he is on about.

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1	(1)	**Ladies & Gentlemen — The Best of**	George Michael (Epic)
2	(2)	**I've Been Expecting You**	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
3	(3)	**Talk on Corners**	Corrs (Atlantic)
4	(5)	**The Best of 1980-1990**	U2 (Island)
5	(16)	**Step One**	Steps (Jive)
6	(7)	**One Night Only**	Bee Gees (Polydor)
7	(14)	**Voice of an Angel**	Charlotte Church (Sony Classical)
8	(4)	**The Best of**	M People (M People)
9	(10)	**Hits**	Phil Collins (Virgin)
10	(27)	**No 1s**	Mariah Carey (Columbia)

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Dazzled by the twin beams

POP GIG
Lighthouse Family
Wembley Arena

Only the Spice Girls have put more bums on seats in the UK this year than Tunde Baiyewu and Paul Tucker. After tomorrow's homecoming show in Newcastle, the Lighthouse Family will have played to 225,000 people in 1998, not to mention the three million copies of their two albums that have slipped into the CD trays of a nation in the past two and a half years.

Their airy MOR style, set in train after a couple of false starts with the 1996 success of *Lifted*, has laid the duo bare to accusations of self-satisfied musical conservatism. As if they need worry. The public appetite for their product is insatiable, but the Family and friends work extremely hard at feeding it. This was their second Wembley engagement of the year and the seventh UK arena date on a schedule that also stretched across seven other European countries.

Early-comers had the bonus of a support slot by Karen Ramirez, one of the year's most refreshing pop discoveries, who showcased her charming *Distant Dreams* album in the Arena's unenviable wide open spaces. Her lack of live experience was occasionally evident, but songs such as the futuristic *New Reality* and the Latin-inflected *Troubled Girl* bode well for her future, and a stripped-back version of her hit *Looking For Love* with Tony Remy on acoustic guitar was particularly successful.

The Family opened with industrial scenes of moving trains and factory chimneys, but the group's music sits higher in the social strata, and a swatch of tasteful pastels from their albums was soon on display. They are justifiably more confident now in their powers as live entertainers, and their roles are well defined: Baiyewu with the honeyed voice and slightly coy demeanour, Tucker the laddish cheerleader urging the crowd to make this their "best show ever".

Both parties gave it a go, with *Lifted* living up to its title. The formulaic feel of some of their subsequent hits did sometimes prompt a haven't-we-had-this-one feeling, and the Lighthouse beam would hardly be dimmed if they were to stir a few unexpected spices into the concert stew. But then *High* was a veritable roof-raiser. This may be lacquered and veneered pop for the Ikea generation, but have you seen the queues outside their stores?

PAUL SEXTON



Tunde Baiyewu and Paul Tucker of the Lighthouse Family

Songs that spring surprises

JAZZ GIG
Jacqui Dankworth
Pizza on the Park

Faced with a choice between Cole Porter and the Celine Dion songbook, vocalists can hardly be blamed for preferring to live in the past. Good songs are still being written, however, even if they rarely get much airplay, and Nicki Leighton-Thomas delivers a basketful of surprises from that eternal swinger, Fran Landesman.

The American expat who gave us *Spring Can Really Hang You Up The Most* was honoured with an appearance on *Desert Island Discs* not too long ago — proof that even bohemians mellow in the end. To judge by her contribution to Leighton-Thomas's endearing album *Damned If I Do*, Landesman's eye for humour and life's dark corners is as sharp as ever.

Leighton-Thomas does not possess the most naturally imposing voice — the tone is often thin and girlish beyond the middle register, and her sense of rhythm sometimes rudimentary. On the other hand it makes a change to hear a singer who is not always veering towards the middle of the Atlantic.

More to the point, she is developing a fruitful partnership with the pianist Simon Wallace, who acts as composer and arranger on her album. Whenever Landesman's inspiration flags — *In A New York Minute*, for instance, is not much more than a tourist bus tour of the mean streets — Wallace is always on hand with a crisp phrase or an unexpected twist of melody. They make an imposing team. I would be surprised not to hear more cover versions of *Only Why No More*, a ballad said to have been inspired by Beckett. Its accumulation of enigmatic phrases leaves the impression of one long, yearning sigh.

Leighton-Thomas played to her strengths, conveying the lyric with the genuine authority of an actress. She sounded just as persuasive on the study in melancholy that was *Down*, as well as on the mischievous *Nicki's Dilemma*. *Love For Sale* supplied a rare look backwards, but the arrangement moved from a conventional verse into a funkier chorus propelled by Alec Dankworth's insistent bass line and Paul Robinson's adroit backbeat. Porter goes contemporary.

CLIVE DAVIS

NEW MUSIC: **Gerald Larner** listens to works by two Estonian composers in Huddersfield

Noted ritual abuse

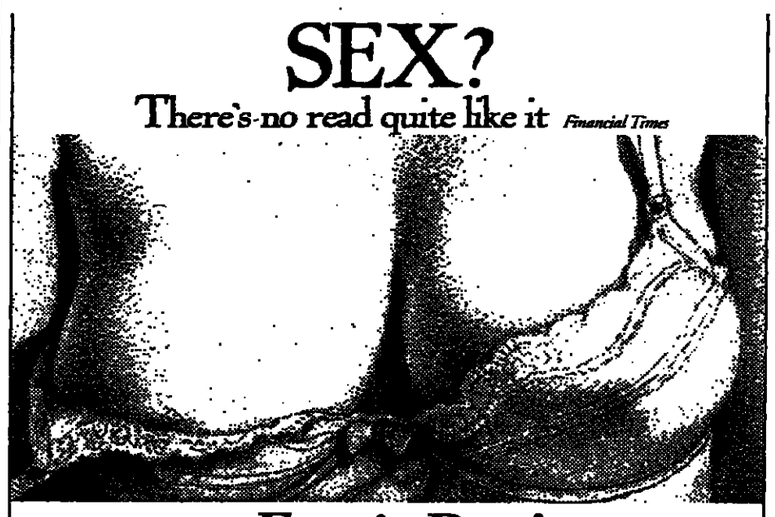
"I HAVE discovered," Arvo Pärt has observed, "that it is enough when a single note is played beautifully." Many notes, most of them by Pärt, have been beautifully sung and played by the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival. They have not been enough.

It is true that impressively large audiences came to the concerts to indulge themselves in Pärt's asceticism and, to judge by their reactions, found some kind of spiritual refreshment in his patient, minimally elaborated, self-consciously pure settings of religious texts. It is also true that these works do offer a refuge from the real world. But for how long they do that depends entirely on the temperament of the individual member of the congregation. For those who find it difficult to believe in cults and who look to the Huddersfield Festival for contemporary music, the whole Pärt celebration has been a perplexing experience.

What is the point, the sceptics might have asked themselves at the first British performance of the *Canon of Repentance*, of this simulation of Russian Orthodox church music and this holy observation of so many of the textural and colour restrictions that implies? The vocal lines and harmonies do flow naturally from the rhythms and inflections of the Slavonic church text and they do immediately create their own atmosphere. The singing of the EPCC under the dedicated direction of Tõnu Kaljuste remained remarkably fresh and admirably secure throughout an unsparingly long succession of unaccompanied odes and prayers. While appreciating all that, as time went on and — through sheer force of self-denial — the event became less of a musical performance and more a church ritual, any member of the audience who had come to St Paul's Hall for aesthetic interest can only have become increasingly frustrated.

Much the same observations apply to the concert in the Town Hall where the EPCC was joined by the Hilliard Ensemble and the TCO, again under the direction of Kaljuste. The basic procedure of Pärt's *Litany*, which most prominently includes a prayer setting for an ensemble of four solo voices, is attractive in its ethereal colouring and its precise setting of its English text. But, subtitled "prayers of St John of Chrysostom for each hour of the night and day", *Litany* goes through its basic procedure 24 times, which again represents a submission of music to the ritual of mortification in spite of the overall structural strategy of the piece. The same composer's *Trisagion*, which is scored for string ensemble but articulated according to the inflections of old Slavonic prayers, did little to reverse the balance.

So, in circumstances dominated by the ethos and influence of Pärt, it was brave of Erkki-Sven Tüür, a representative of a younger generation of Estonian composers, to compose a requiem in which he has not only shortened the liturgical text, instead of stretching it to infinity, but has set it and coloured it in his own resourceful way.



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The Media Times

Piers v the black-top bullies

Newspaper pundits were described earlier this autumn as "undertakers", perhaps because we are often called upon to discuss bad news from Fleet Street such as the funeral processions of editors who have "resigned" or whose sales are falling. One recent victim has been Piers Morgan, savagely criticised by his peers for publishing three stories which violated the privacy of Prince Harry at Eton.

"Mr Morgan's disingenuousness is not just puerile; it is unprofessional," said *The Daily Telegraph* last Saturday. His clash with the Palace was described in *The Guardian* as "wholly fatuous", and it quoted an unnamed tabloid editor describing Morgan as "a twit of the first order" who demeaned the trade.



Unabashed, Morgan turned on his tormentors this week and initiated the first tabloid media column, allegedly written by Lisa O'Carroll but in which all the commentators and analysts sounded uncannily like Morgan himself. It attacked the "black-tops" — *The Guardian*, *Telegraph* and *Times* — and said that their editors were "quaking in their boots" over falling sales.

Morgan describes the new column as his "rapid-response unit". It will be published as and when he thinks fit. "It will depend on how much I am tormented by the black-tops," he says. As he suggests, newspaper sales are certainly falling in the run-up to Christmas, as they always do. Yet his column, since we can all be selective, failed to point out that *Mirror* sales fell in October by 41,000, against 10,000 for *The Times* and 20,800 for *The Daily Telegraph*.

Yet three newspapers are celebrating small triumphs. One belongs to *The Independent*, which has achieved sales increases in five of the six months since Simon Kelner became Editor in May. It sold 223,000 copies a day last month, against 215,000 in April. That still leaves *The Independent* at the bottom of the league, but at least moving in the right direction.

Given the debasing of the *Independent* brand, moreover, since the departure of founding Editor Andreas Whittam Smith — and the three methods of editing the paper tried this year before Kelner's appointment — his is a notable achievement, as well as a small victory for the old-fashioned journalism he has reintroduced. Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers has so far invested £5 million in *The Independent* and is looking for sustainable long-term growth.

Two other tiny triumphs were recorded by the Audit Bureau of Circulations last month, when two new national newspapers made their debut. One was *Sunday Business*, launched in February, which recorded a circulation of 50,151. The other was Britain's first national sports newspaper, *Sport First*, launched in March, which declared a sale of 67,000.

Under Editor Jeff Randall, a former City editor of *The Sunday Times* business section, *Sunday Business*, selling at 50p, set itself a modest three-year target, a sale of 80,000-100,000, mainly in London and the South East. "I may sound cocky," says Randall, "but I genuinely believe that we will achieve that circulation within three years".

With two 40-page broadsheet sections, produced by only 40 journalists, Randall is turning out a substantial newspaper which is high on text, doesn't dumb down, doesn't report sport and commands the respect of his rivals.

His claim that *Sunday Business* has started penetrating the boardroom is supported by MORI's most recent Captains of Industry poll, which indicated that it considered *Sunday Business* more useful than all its rival Sundays apart from *The Sunday Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. Although 30 per cent read *The Mail on Sunday*, only 8 per cent found it useful.

Since it is printed in Portsmouth, *Sunday Business* fails to get north of York and Blackpool, but it will be on sale in Newcastle this Sunday and there are plans to get the paper to Scotland next year, especially to Edinburgh, the second largest financial services centre in Europe.

Sport First, selling for 50p, is a 64-page tabloid with a heavy emphasis on football but also with decent coverage last week of rugby, racing, cricket and tennis. There are 28 pages on football and another 14 with 10,000 results and fixtures (compared with 21 sports pages in the *News of the World*). It reports or previews every weekend match in the Premiership and in the first, second and third divisions, adds two more pages on non-league football and is produced by a full-time staff of 15, supplemented on Saturdays by 50 subs. Columnists include Bobby Robson, David Pleat and Steve Cram.

> Three papers are enjoying small triumphs

Sport First, edited by the former Expressman David Emery, is the brainchild of Keith Young, a veteran printing contractor who made his fortune on the Internet with Easynet and who is also a big shareholder in Everton. He has spent £3 million on *Sport First* and is hoping that it will be selling 100,000 copies a week by the new year, so that the paper stops "haemorrhaging" money.

Young's experience demonstrates the conflict, at any launch, between ambition and caution. Since spending £150,000 on twenty 30-second advertising slots on LWT on one Saturday night and gaining 35,000 new readers, most of whom stayed loyal, he thinks he may have been too cautious and should have spent more on TV promotion.

Nobody is watching the progress of *Sport First* more closely than David Montgomery, the chief executive of Mirror Group. MGN plans to relaunch *Sporting Life* as a seven-day tabloid next year with a target sale of 150,000 a day. Dummies are now being tested on potential readers and Jeremy Reed, the managing director of the *Mirror* sport division, is encouraged by what *Sport First* has achieved with its limited distribution.



On the up: *The Independent* finally has cause for cautious optimism, as do newcomers *Sunday Business* and *Sport First*

Plugging in to Ambridge

PR Week has an intriguing case study of how a pressure group managed to get airtime for its cause on the Radio 4 soap opera *The Archers*.

The British Horse Society this year organised a "Root Out Ragwort Week", to make people aware that the weed can poison horses. Nichola Gregory, the society's press officer, sent information on it to the programme's producers — and the issue was duly mentioned in an August instalment.

Gregory says this triumph marked the highlight of her career. "If you've got a good story and know how to tell it, you can get it anywhere," she crows.

■ ALL lads throughout the world will soon be able to taste the raunchy delights of the monthly *Loaded*, says **Press Gazette**.

The publishers, IPC, plan to launch separate editions in the United States, Russia, Australia and South Africa. The magazine's up-front approach to sex, drugs and youth culture earns it a circulation of more than 450,000, but it is likely to be toned down for some markets, especially the US.

Loaded was launched in 1994 by Tim Southwell and James Brown. Southwell, who subsequently left the magazine, was appointed editor this week to replace Derek Harbinson.

■ SKULDUGGERY in the placid world of classical music radio is reported by **Marketing Week**. Classic FM has obtained a leaked BBC strategy document revealing plans to market Radio 3, using a new set of TV trailers on BBC2.

The document says these trailers should be used to target Classic FM and emphasise Radio 3's distinctiveness. Classic FM has already complained to the Broadcasting Standards Commission about an earlier set of ads for Radio 3 on BBC2, in which it claims to have been unfairly attacked.

■ A MARGARINE war is forecast by **Marketing** in its report of the launch next year by Johnson & Johnson of a new low-cholesterol brand, Benecol, which is said to cut cholesterol levels by 10 per cent.



Saatchi & Saatchi has been appointed to handle the launch, which is expected to come just before the introduction of a rival product by Unilever — marketed either as part of its established Flora range, or under its American brand name, Take Control.

■ J. WALTER THOMPSON has come top of **Marketing Week's** Agency Reputations Survey for the fourth successive year. Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO came second and McCann-Erickson third.

In the award's ten-year history, JWT has won eight times. The magazine says its strengths lie in its perceived ability to act in its clients' long-term interests, its marketing and strategy analysis and its strong management.

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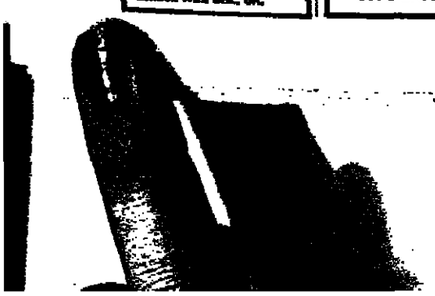
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'You to fol mon joint in E way fo

Rupert Murdoch is with partners on th tells Raymond Sn

This rare for and chief ex tion, parent company. "I was head Murdoch Institute Atlantic talks with Peter appointed chief fia. A planned ian group to launch vision in Italy cant part of a new rial European Milan-based ary, News Corp Europe Instead of Murdoch says will probably ing around Sat be heavy dum

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"I would like to attract more business graduate students in the US and the UK into the media and to [illegible] doesn't have to [illegible] bank or McKinsey, the management consultants)."

Rupert Murdoch in the lounge of the Savoy Hotel after introducing the evening chairman of News Corp Europe, Irene Moraga (the former chairm[illegible] RAI, the Italian state broadcaster, to the international press.

In addition to the partnership with Telecom Italia, News Corp Europe plans a joint venture with TF[illegible] Channel 5, to launch a cable and satellite channel targeted at 15 to 35-year-olds. More partnerships and deals are clearly under way, although Murdoch says he much prefers the operational side of newspapers and TV to the hours spent in side merchant banks finalising deals.

He says he is enjoying life very much and has lost none of his appetite for expanding News Corporation — even though it is "a little too frantic". Earlier this month there were the "road shows" for the public offering of shares in the Fox film and TV businesses, which involved two trips to the UK in two weeks and up to eight presentations a day in 15 American cities.

At the end of it he had to fly to Australia for the weekend to attend the funeral of his first wife Patricia: their marriage was dissolved 30 years ago.

Talking about his schedule, Murdoch, who will be 68 in March, says: "I keep fit. I work out at the gym every day. I get the chance, which means when I am in New York or Los Angeles. I feel I am fitter than I have ever been. I hope I am mentally fit as well."

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IS THE Kirsty Young bubble about to burst? When ITV confirmed Trevor McDonald and Dermot Murnaghan as presenters for the new 6.30pm and 11pm news this week there was no mention of Channel 5's golden girl. An ITV executive explained gleefully that they had no plans to buy her out of her contract with C5, which runs to the end of 1999. Kelvin MacKenzie scathingly dubbed her "the invisible woman" when he boosted Talk Radio: she had not hosted its breakfast show since July despite signing for a year.

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'You've got to follow the money — a joint venture in Europe is the way forward'

Rupert Murdoch is seeking media deals with partners on the Continent. It is, he tells **Raymond Snoddy**, the place to be

CHRIS HARRIS



Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation: ready to do business on the Continent

the media interview

This weekend Rupert Murdoch was planning to spend Thanksgiving at his farm at Carmel in California. It was going to be a rare four-day holiday for the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

"I was really looking forward to it. I needed it to recharge my batteries," says Murdoch. Instead he will be flying the Atlantic back to London for expected talks with Franco Bernabè, the newly appointed chief executive of Telecom Italia. A planned joint venture with the Italian group to launch digital satellite television in Italy is the first and most significant part of a new attack on the continental European market through a new Milan-based subsidiary, News Corp Europe.

Instead of the holiday, Murdoch says that he will probably be "walking around Sky. It won't be heavy duty."

On Monday he was in London for the News Corp Europe launch. Then it was off to the US for a speaking engagement at the Harvard Business School on Tuesday.

"I would like to attract business graduate students in the US and the UK into the media and let them know that life doesn't have to lead to an investment bank or McKinsey (the management consultants)."

Rupert Murdoch is talking over coffee in the lounge of the Savoy Hotel soon after introducing the executive chairman of News Corp Europe, Letizia Moratti (the former chairwoman of RAI, the Italian state broadcaster) to the international press.

In addition to the partnership with Telecom Italia, News Corp Europe plans a joint venture with TF 1, the French broadcaster, to launch a cable and satellite channel targeted at 15 to 35-year-olds. More partnerships and deals are clearly under way, although Murdoch says he much prefers the operational side of newspapers and TV to the hours spent inside merchant banks finalising deals.

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The move into Europe is one of News Corporation's most significant for some time and comes after possible links with Canal Plus in France, with the Kirch organisation in Germany, and with Silvio Berlusconi — "at his invitation" — came to nothing. A newspaper joint venture in Germany with the publishers Burda was a failure. Until now, despite the aspirations, there has been little in continental Europe apart from a 49 per cent stake in the German television channel VOX and a Dutch radio station. All that is going to change.

"I think it has become essential for an international company to follow this globalisation thing," says Murdoch. "You have got to follow the money and, apart from the emotions, Europe is 40 per cent of the media market, the US is 40 per cent and the rest is 20 per cent."

Worse, much worse, than the cultural and linguistic barriers were the politics and the different media rules in virtually every country. "A European venture with a European face and European partners, I think, is the only way forward," says Murdoch, who is seeking partners to take 5 per cent or 10 per cent stakes in the holding company. On a country-by-country basis, partners would take much larger stakes, such as Telecom Italia's planned 51 per cent in the digital satellite venture to News Corp Europe's 39 per cent.

Murdoch declines to name potential partners, although it is likely that they will include major European publishing houses anxious to extend their presence in the electronic media. The Axel Springer group of Germany, publishers of *Bild* newspaper, and Rizzoli, owners of the *Corriere della Sera* newspaper, are clearly the sort of companies he has in mind.

As he opens up a new front in the international media battle, Murdoch is very content at the current state of his existing businesses and believes that Britain "is quite the star performer".

"The SkyDigital launch has been terrific. It has succeeded in fixing in the public mind that digital and Sky are almost synonymous." He says that the next stage of the marketing campaign will be to promote specifics — channels such as Discovery and National Geographic, and the coverage of live events.

His mood is hardening against ONdigital, the digital terrestrial service, which also carries BSkyB channels such as sports and movies. Murdoch says he finds it hard that BSkyB should have to provide its best programmes to ONdigital while ONdigital is not required to "supply its programmes to us, insomuch as it has any".

"We had to fight them to get the money we were owed and had to fight the Independent Television Commission at every stage to get a level playing field."

He says of ONdigital: "I think we are real rivals now and in some ways we would love to be able to keep all the sport to ourselves, because we pioneered it."

He adds with a grin: "We are going out to win".

Rupert Murdoch says that his UK newspapers — *The Sun*, *News of the World*, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* — are "holding their positions in the marketplace extremely well" and a period of stability is likely with no intensification of the price war. There is a slight downturn in classified advertising at *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, although this has been more than made up for by better-than-expected national advertising. Although there has been an occasional raised eyebrow over some of *The Sun's* headlines — asking if Tony Blair was the most dangerous man in Britain over the euro, and wondering whether Britain was run by "a gay mafia", are the main examples — Murdoch says he is a "100 per cent supporter" of David Yelland's editorship.

> 'I feel that I am fitter than I have ever been'

"There have been moments of overstatement but David is a very intelligent young man, and it is inevitable when a new editor comes into a paper, which was in danger of losing its self-confidence, and forces the pace that there will be a few mistakes," he says. "But David is the sort of person who learns from his mistakes without a word from me or anyone else."

Murdoch is watching the uncertainty over the future of Polygram Filmed Entertainment production carefully and would be very interested in working with some of its independent producers if they became available.

If the price was right, News Corporation might still be interested in EMI, the music publishing and record group, despite Murdoch's worries about the music market.

In the UK, Murdoch believes he could now be "a natural ally" of the BBC and would like to work more closely with the corporation. In the past, he says, people have exaggerated his opposition to the BBC simply because certain editors of *The Sun* have taken against the corporation, as have editors of *The Times*, mainly over the licence fee.

"I have always had, I think, good relations with the governors of the BBC," he says. "I think we could work with them and I would like to. Our problem is that in the ranks of the BBC there is an elitism which doesn't like me or our newspapers, or Sky in particular. Their strategy department seems obsessed with how to fight Sky and Murdoch rather than what's best for the BBC."

> 'I think we could work with the BBC and I'd like to'

He is delighted that, for the past three weeks, Fox Broadcasting has been the number one US network in its 15 hours of prime-time programming — though mainly by holding on to its audience as others fell away.

But even as he notes with pleasure such unexpected successes, Murdoch still worries about one subject — what to do about the Internet.

"The huge trend in the media is the Internet. It is immense and we have a constant discussion," he says. Yet apart from using the Internet for brand extension, News Corporation has not taken a major plunge. Murdoch could, he says, have bought a large stake in Amazon.com., the Internet book-selling service, and made a $1 billion capital gain by selling the stake. But Amazon, he adds, has yet to make a penny profit and is already facing intensified competition.

Murdoch points out that 140 companies raised capital in the US in the early days of the automobile and none is around today. "There will certainly be a time. We will find a way into it (the Internet) but if you are going to make money out of it, you have to provide a unique service that will be hard for anyone to imitate, or some form of branded merchandise."

As he spends the Thanksgiving weekend trying to cement the big move into Italy on the back of exclusive football rights, the goal is clear in his mind. "All types of information are going to become ubiquitous in every home. You get it off satellite, off an ISDN telephone line or your cable. The transactions will be tremendous. The working wife will do her supermarket shopping when she gets home on Friday night — the same order as last week, plus strawberries, and for a £3 or £4 surcharge it will be on your doorstep at 9am," Murdoch forecasts.

The only tricky bit will be actually getting there.

My PR strategy for Boycott

ON THE face of it, defending the reputation of self-confessed male chauvinist and professional Yorkshireman Geoffrey Boycott against allegations of battering his girlfriend at a luxury hotel on the Côte d'Azur was going to be an uphill struggle. So many public preconceptions and misconceptions, there was precious little point in trying to reinvent my client.

Ironically, I was approached first by his former girlfriend, Margaret Moore — she was drinking champagne with a friend at the time and demanding £1 million for details of an attack at the hands of one of the "world's biggest stars". The clock struck 13 and I knew this woman was not for Max Clifford.

Subsequently, Geoffrey's people were in contact and I had realised in the interim that if, as claimed, he had hit her 20 times then Ms Moore's face would be a bloody pulp. Of course, it would be a challenge to save his reputation but she was living in cloud-cuckoo-land.

The verdict of the French judge, who refused to admit evidence which might have proved Ms Moore had fallen and hit her head on a table, in conjunction with *The Sun's* stand against Boycott, looked grim. But, like or despise the man, he has no previous form for battering anyone, male or female.

The strategy was simple — England's greatest ever defensive batsman must open himself up to scrutiny from television, press, and radio journalists in an attempt to salvage his career as a cricket commentator from the ashes. He was on a good wicket, anyway — his trial in Grasse was widely acknowledged as a shambles and, three weeks on, the controversy rumbles still.

The PR plan adopted has been to challenge journalists to look at all the evidence revealed at the trial and then to make up their own minds as to who is telling the truth. Fortunately for Boycott, it is a message that has been working effectively for him and resulted in interviews and news features in the *Daily Mail*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Mirror* and *The Express*.

TV appearances on BBC and GMTV have shown increasing public support for Boycott. Interviews on Radio 5 Live and Talk Radio with



the associated phone-ins revealed 70 per cent in his favour. Additional support came from Erin Pizzey, founder of the Women's Refuge, who on TV and radio declared that she believed and supported the former cricketer.

It wasn't a walkover, though. Newspaper columnist and TV presenter Nina Myskow declared that she did not believe Boycott's version of events and was pleased with the verdict. But with detractors like her who needs supporters?

Of all the national and local newspapers that carried Boycott features and interviews, only *The Express* came out for Margaret Moore — not surprising, maybe, when you consider that the *Daily Mail's* Lynda Lee-Potter, Angela Levin and Ian Wooldridge had all written extremely supportive articles. In addition to gaining increasing support from the public, the media PR assault by Boycott has meant that discussions are now taking place with people who in the changing climate feel comfortable employing him as a commentator/analyst. Talk Radio has already signed him to cover the Ashes tour, and other contracts will be announced soon.

■ HOW delicious that our hereditary peers might be saved from extinction with the help of a Hollywood film star. Who would have thought that a potential saviour could come in the shape of Jamie Lee Curtis? In a desperate attempt to blunt Tony Blair's axe, Jamie was wheeled in on the arm of her husband, Lord Haden-Guest, to the delight of the assembled company. Her appearance captured a vast amount of media attention, almost overshadowing the arrival of the Queen.

The message was loud and clear: "We are not old, powdered and out of touch. How can we possibly be when Lady Haden-Guest, better known as Ms Lee Curtis, *is* one of us."

Such is the passion stirred up among these noble peers that cries of "shame" were heard as the Queen announced plans for their abolition, the first time in living memory that the Sovereign's address had been interrupted.

With a Hollywood queen triumphing their cause and William Hague, the Conservative leader, pledging his support, this drama looks set to create a media feast for years to come.

My personal worry would be that if so many of them are thrown out of the Lords, where else could they go? They might find themselves involved with everyday life and start to cause a bloody nuisance to the rest of us.

● *Max Clifford is managing director of Max Clifford Associates Ltd*

Is no one thirsty for Kirsty, any more?



IS THE Kirsty Young bubble about to burst? When ITV confirmed Trevor McDonald and Dermot Murnaghan as presenters for the new 6.30pm and 11pm news this week there was no mention of Channel 5's golden girl. An ITV executive explained gleefully that they had no plans to buy her out of her contract with C5, which runs to the end of 1999. Kelvin MacKenzie scathingly dubbed her "the invisible woman" when he bought Talk Radio: she had not hosted its breakfast show since July despite signing for a year.

Instead, that likeable rising star Katie Derham, ITN's arts and media correspondent, will stand in for Murnaghan when he stands in for McDonald at 6.30pm.

Meanwhile, Chris Shaw, Channel 5's new head of factual programmes and the man behind Young's success on Channel 5 News, is promising to foster her career with a bigger-budget talk show. (Channel 5 never approved of her Talk Radio deal.)

One final thought: those at the sharp end of the news business point out that Young's agent is Mike Hollingsworth, estranged husband of Anne Diamond.

■ HUGE relief at loss-making GMTV after the offer of a £30 million a year cut in its franchise payments. Eamonn Holmes, its £500,000-a-year anchorman, may apply for a rise, but I'm told that GMTV's programme budget will be the beneficiary. At £25,000 an hour, GMTV spends half the amount of BBC Breakfast News and ITV's daytime shows, and is even cheaper to make than the £30,000 an hour that ITV allocates for regional programmes. There will be more live news reports, such as today's item about switching on the Christmas lights at Omagh, which GMTV sees as its key selling point. Its top programme executives are off on a two-day conference next week to work out their game plan. Inevitably, it is braced for a bidding war with ITV's new tabloid current affairs programme, the unofficially-named *60 Minutes*.

■ THE Granada team devising *60 Minutes* is also holding a big pow-wow next week, attended by presenter Trevor McDonald, to flesh out the concept. Jeff Anderson, the editor, has received around 5,000 applications for the 30-plus jobs on offer, with the cream of BBC journalists forming part of the stampede to join the other star presenter, Martin Bashir.

But Anderson is anxious to hire tabloid newspaper talent: they are the ones, he says, who know how to dig — although Granada's in-house *World in Action* team has a pretty good record at the more serious stuff. With a £200,000-an-hour budget, *60 Minutes* is going to bid for exclusives with big names in the news, such as Geoff Boycott. How would it cover the Ron Davies affair? I'm told the programme might try to interview his wife, or former wife, or run a knockabout piece about Clapham house prices and their residents. The rest of us could then laugh at the City types who compete to pay upwards of £300,000 for a cramped Victorian terrace.

■ "IT'S the biggest media story of the year . . . sales of broadsheet newspapers are plummeting." With this battle cry, Piers Morgan, the Editor of *The Mirror*, ordered a new media column this week to attack the "black-top" media pundits such as *The Guardian's* Roy "Green Wiv Envy" Greenslade, who keep writing about how the "red tops" are in decline.

Morgan huffs: "It's a rapid response column to be utilised to take revenge against the cant and hypocrisy from the unpopular press. Every broadsheet journalist should feel apprehensive." Alan Rusbridger, the Editor of *The Guardian*, sent a spoof legal letter. Simon Kelner, the Editor of *The Independent*, wrote to advise that his name was spelt with one "l".

■ The *Daily Mail* on Monday ran a banner headline across Page 1: "Why we should all turn off our TV sets tonight."

Holding *Nanny Mail* by the hand, I half took the paper's advice at 9pm, watching *Vice: The Sex Trade* from behind the sofa. I caught sight of a fat man being wrapped up in a nappy and being offered a breast to nuzzle.

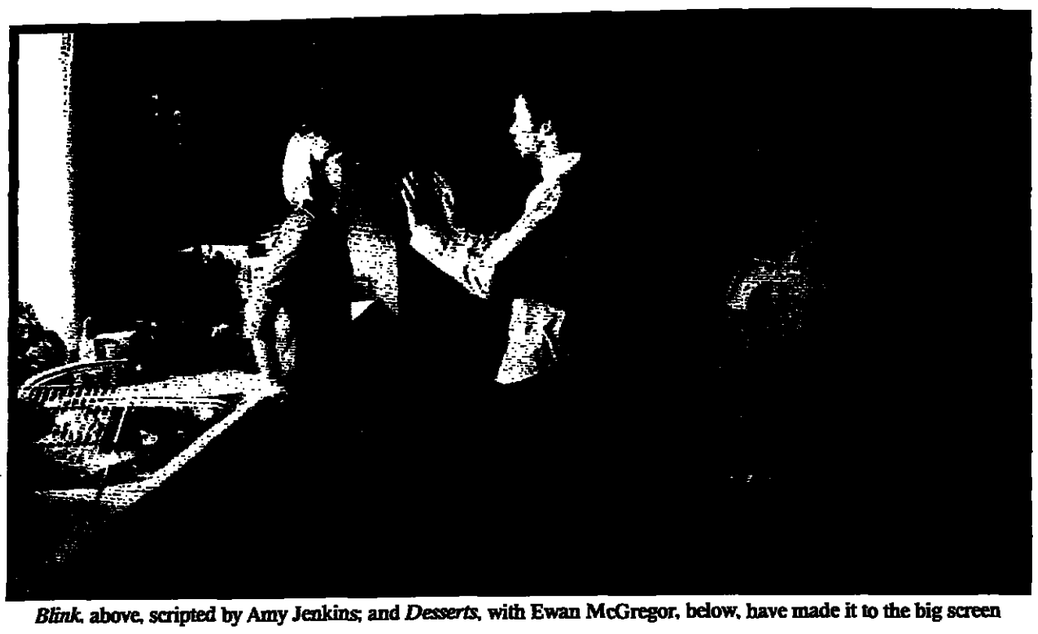
Since some ten million viewers are lapping up this stuff, is the *Mail* out of touch with Middle England? Well, a very senior ITV executive tells me that he's unhappy with the series too, that it's tacky, satellite TV fodder, not the sort of mainstream programme you would expect on Britain's most popular network.

Another executive says it has not been "very revelatory" — though perhaps we should be thankful for that. But he added that it's the sort of series which can be played more suitably at 10pm, once *News at Ten* is dropped next March.

media times

Small is beautiful again

Film shorts are enjoying a revival, says **Imogen O'Rorke**



Blink, above, scripted by Amy Jenkins; and *Desserts*, with Ewan McGregor, below, have made it to the big screen



The short film, the long-lost second cousin of widescreen cinema, is making a commercial comeback. Audiences who pay to see the new British romantic comedy, *If Only*, in London and at multiplexes around the country when it opens today, will be getting another love tangle thrown in for free: *Blink*, an 11-minute film, written and directed by Amy Jenkins, the creator of *This Life*.

Cinemagoers who have been turning up to see *Divorcing Jack*, may already have caught *Ewan McGregor in Desserts*, a three-minute short in which he stars as a human fish, made by Geoff Stark, a commercial director.

The last short to have such wide distribution in the UK went out with *Tootsie* in 1983. In the Seventies, the grainy wildlife film, dusted down from the BBC film archive, or the edifying travelogue about ballooning, was a common blight in front of the main feature. But the rise in the Eighties of the one-minute ad rang their death knell. At the time, they hardly seemed worth saving.

The shorts that are screened today are as sophisticated as the main feature. *Blink*'s storyline is based around a baby elephant which sits on a kitchen table crying — a great, fat metaphor for the problems in a young couple's relationship. *Desserts* shows Ewan McGregor discovering a chocolate eclair on a beach, which he bites into — at his peril.

Everyone in the industry knows that shorts do not make money — not for the exhibitors, the distributors, the producers, least of all for the actors. So why are so many being made and why are some at last getting distributed?

"Shorts are like an apprenticeship," says Alex Johnson, the 27-year-old producer of *Blink*. "Most directors cut their teeth on shorts, from Guy Richie (*Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*) to Scorcese. But it is still more difficult to get a short film shown than it is to raise the money to make it."

Johnson managed to get Film Four funding under the Short and Curlies scheme, which functions as a hothouse for young film-makers and guarantees screening on BBC2 and Channel 4. The commission was a statutory £80,000 for which hundreds applied. It was good timing — *This Life* fever was at its height.

From the point of view of the distributor, Pathé, taking up *Blink* was a gamble. "We are interested in encouraging new talent and this is a good way to ensure their work gets seen," says Nick Hill, the managing director of Pathé, "but financially, shorts are not worth our while." (Notwithstanding the benefit of founding a good relationship with a new writer: Jenkins has been chosen, with Steve Coogan and John Hodget [*Train-spotting*], as one of 16 scriptwriters to gain from a lottery grant of £29 million.)

Blink had good fortune. The sobering truth is that, at present, fewer than one in a hundred shorts ever gets shown.

Michael Wrenn, from Firesign, the short film collective backed by Levi Strauss, which helped to distribute *Desserts*, thinks part of the problem is that the makers of short films still have a lot to learn. "Most shorts are terrible. Either not properly funded or, as is often the case with film school graduates, too crowded."

Firesign has received a grant, jointly with the London Film and Video Development Agency, from the Arts 4 Everyone lottery scheme, to ensure that more short films get shown. Jill Robertson, the producer of *Desserts*, who is likely to be a beneficiary of the A4E fund, believes things are looking up: "Last year it was different. I had a huge struggle to get my short film, *Magic Moments* (starring Dougray Scott), shown." (It finally went out with *Ma Vie en Rose*.)

"From the outset with *Desserts*," she says, "we thought, 'lets get distributed', not 'let's make it and then see if we can get a distributor'. Film-makers can't sit in dreamland, they must make films that have something to offer."

The Short Film Bureau, which was set up a year ago "to get short films shown", is convinced that the medium has commercial potential. Last week the SFB had a meeting with major distributors and exhibitors, who agreed to start distributing short films.

With more shorts going out in 1999 — including Firesign's Still Buzzing, described as the first silent techno movie, to go with Linklater's *Suburbia*, and Kathy Burke's writing-directorial debut, *The End*, which has been matched with a French farce, *Sitcom* — there is evidence that distributors are realising that short films are worth making space for.

Carlton and the loose connection

Something strange happened at the Independent Television Commission's press conference on Wednesday, held to announce how it would value the licence fees of 11 ITV franchises for the next ten years.

The result was great for GMTV, the loss-making commercial breakfast channel, not so good for Lord Hollick's United News and Media, and produced modest savings for Michael Green's Carlton Television in London. As journalists worried away at ITC predictions on the growth of digital television — 50 per cent penetration by 2008, including some, but not all, digital satellite homes — an unfamiliar figure at media press conferences asked a startling question. Was it not, the reporter asked, a case of putting the cart before the horse to offer Carlton a new licence when the ITC might have to remove its licence because of *The Connection* drug-trafficking programme and the Castro fiasco?



The journalist was Michael Gillard and the programmes he was talking about were two Carlton documentaries that Gillard and a colleague, Laurie Flynn, both working for *The Guardian*, have denounced in front-page articles as fakes. The award-winning *Connection*, purporting to show the opening-up of a new drugs route from Colombia to London, is now the subject of a Carlton investigation under the supervision of independent lawyers. The ITC is indeed waiting for a final version of the report, expected within two weeks, before deciding what action to take.

The press conference question was, however, naive. There is no chance that Carlton will lose its licence because there is no evidence that anybody at Carlton headquarters was knowingly involved in faking anything. Against a background of growing controversy over what documentary film-makers get up to and where the lines of acceptable behaviour lie, the Carlton investigation report will be an important document.

The investigation is expected to find that there was a serious failure of compliance — the process that ensures that the rules of television are properly observed and that with factual programmes the viewer can rely on the fact that what they see is true — at Carlton. There is no doubt that in several cases viewers were misled by *The Connection*. In just one example a drug "mule" is seen swallowing what are alleged to be drugs. The commentary says: "Within 24 hours he will be in London." He is then shown alighting at Heathrow the next morning. In fact, the flight took place months later and viewers were not told this. There are also allegations that the drug carriers were actors.

As usual, the truth is complex. At its heart is the researcher on the programme, Adriana Quintana, who was *The Guardian*'s main source for its allegations. Unfortunately, there is evidence that Ms Quintana has said inconsistent and contradictory things and there seems to be no argument that she was in dispute with Carlton over money. She arrived at the company with a document shortly before transmission but the conversation, it is believed, was mainly about money.

When that dispute was resolved the document was not read in detail. Had it been, there is little doubt that Carlton would have taken a long, hard look at *The Connection* before airing it. Greater editorial scepticism might also have been in order; was it really likely that the No 3 in the Cali cartel would explain on camera how they planned to set up a drugs route into the UK?

The nature of the information in the report and in a *Hard News* special on the issue — to be broadcast by Channel 4 tomorrow at 8pm — suggests that the ITC is likely to fine Carlton and advise it to tighten its procedures. The programme looks not just at the journalism in *The Connection*, but also how *The Guardian* went about its investigation.

Although the programme will confirm many of *The Guardian*'s main points, it finds that things are not as simple as the newspaper thinks, and that it didn't get everything right itself. One complaint is that *The Guardian* did not initially mention that there was some conflict of interests with one of the reporters involved. So I had better mention that my own connections include presenting the *Hard News* special.

As so often in human affairs, cock-ups are far more frequent and likely than deliberate mendacity, and so it is here. *The Guardian* is to be congratulated on pointing out the deficiencies in *The Connection* — much less so in denouncing a five-year-old documentary on Castro as a fake. It would have been even better, though, had it done its job with less hype and hyperbole, and without ascribing the worst-possible motives to all those involved.

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And now for the serious news



Early gravitas: Trevor McDonald, left, who will be anchoring the *News at 6.30* on ITV, Kirsty Young, of Channel 5, centre, and Anna Ford from BBC1. Research suggests that television journalism has smartened up over the past five years

Early evening TV news is not dumbing down, say **Ivor Gaber** and **Steven Barnett**

Coverage-hungry politicians and serious-minded viewers alike have been carping that the imminent disappearance of *News at Ten* from the schedules prefaces a terminal dumbing down of ITV. News at . . . er. 6.30, has an ominous ring, they argue; a procession of trivial tabloid tales worthy of the *Daily Sport*.

On the face of it, the pessimists have a point. Early evening news bulletins are very different from their later siblings, designed to pull in and keep viewers for the channel over the rest of the peak-time schedule. Traditionally they are lighter, with fewer foreign stories and less "hard" political coverage. And yet, on the basis of our research, there may be hope: ITV appears to have lifted its game significantly.

Five years ago, prompted by the *Voice of the Listener and Viewer* (*VLV*), we carried out a "snapshot" analysis of one week's early evening news bulletins on BBC1, ITV, BBC Radio 4 and Sky News.

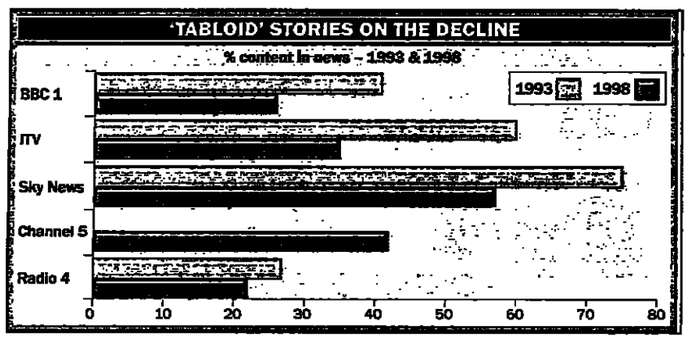
Each item on each bulletin was timed and classified under one of 14 headings, from political and economic stories to crime, showbusiness or sport. We also separated foreign from domestic stories. We then calculated the proportion of bulletins that each broadcaster devoted to "serious" issues — politics, business, economics or foreign stories — and how much time was used to cover "tabloid" stories — showbiz, sport, crime and royal affairs (in both senses).

Our results fuelled fears that ITV was dumbing down. We found what seemed a clear divergence in news values between BBC1 and ITV. The latter focused more on tabloid stories at the expense of serious issues. The primacy of news had been sacrificed on the altar of audience figures.

Five years on, amid the furore over *News at Ten*, *VLV* asked us to repeat the exercise. Again we logged early evening bulletins for the equivalent period — the first week in November — and the results were a surprise. In 1993, 60 per cent of ITV's early evening news items were tabloid, compared with 41 per cent for the BBC. But in 1998, both channels were devoting significantly less airtime to trivia. More important, the gap between ITV and the BBC had fallen from 19 per cent to 9 per cent.

The same was true in reverse for serious news coverage. In 1993, the BBC's early bulletin was broadcasting almost twice as many such stories as ITV. By 1998, not only had both channels increased such coverage, but ITV had reduced the gap from 19 per cent to 5 per cent.

To summarise these trends, we produced a "tabloidisation" index. By giving all serious stories a plus score and all tabloid items a minus, we can illustrate the changes across each channel. Our findings show that, for the first week of this month at least, every channel and station had become more serious, and the gap between BBC and ITV had more than halved, to 14 per cent.



It is also worth noting that Sky News doubled its serious content between the two analysis periods, and was only in deficit on our index because its early evening programme contains a substantial sports segment.

How should one explain these figures? Firstly, beware of any generalisations from analysis of just one week's coverage. Results will, of course, be influenced by exceptional items; not even the most determined practitioner of tabloid TV journalism could ignore pictures of the devastation wreaked in Central America by Hurricane Mitch. Also, there was significant coverage of two other foreign stories, the American mid-term elections and the crisis in Iraq. It is worth noting that neither had a strong visual content.

We should beware of the dangers of any statistical analysis that relies on subjective classification of stories. Some — animals, royal state visits — are not easily categorised and attempts to quantify such news loses any distinction in the depth, quality or nature of coverage. Reports on the Queen's Speech, for example, could concentrate on the dramatised "war against the peers" or the implications of proposed legislation on the NHS.

But even with all these caveats, this is still the only hard evidence of what might really be happening to TV news, and would seem to torpedo the gloomy prognosis offered by so many commentators.

It may be possible that this research has uncovered a real shift in broadcast journalism: not just a convergence between the two main domestic news providers, but one at a more serious level. We might be able to conclude that TV journalism has not dumbed down, but smartened up.

● *Steven Barnett is a senior lecturer in communications at the University of Westminster. Ivor Gaber is professor of broadcast journalism at Goldsmiths College, University of London.*

Ads won't help our beef

NO SOONER had the ban been lifted than the phone started ringing: what sort of advertising campaign should the meat industry run to convince European consumers that British beef was safe and desirable?

It brought back memories of when the crisis first broke. What ads should the Government run? How could ads persuade us that beef was safe when the papers were full of such damaging stories and terrifying images of crazed cows dancing frenziedly in their pens?

Then, as now, the answer is easy: no ads can. Dropping £10 notes from the skies over Berlin, Paris, Madrid and Rome (let alone London) might be a more cost-effective marketing device than advertising. There should be no advertising at all — not yet, anyway.

Potential European consumers, fed on years of negative publicity from their own national media, are unlikely to suddenly change their minds about British beef just because of some slick ad campaign. If anything, conducted too soon, it may have a counter-productive effect.

Advertising could so easily appear too cynical, too soon. Instead, an expensive, consistent, long-term consumer public relations campaign needs to be conducted across the Continent, followed by a direct mail campaign to food retailers there. You can be sure that the national meat industries of our European partners will be searching hard to find any evidence whatsoever of new flaws in British beef's safety standards. They will conduct determined lobbying campaigns to protect their own industries, which have flourished as a result of the ban.



One day of damaging front-page headlines and lead items on the evening news would negate the effects of a multi-million-pound ad campaign.

Is it likely to happen? Just look at how the Germans tried to prevent the lifting of the ban this week.

The political battle may have been won, but the marketing war for consumers' hearts and minds has just begun. If roles were reversed, Britain would do exactly the same.

■ TONY KAYE, the maverick commercials director who created such gems as Volvo's "twister" and "photographer", Dunlop's "magician", and the InterCity "relax" films, is seldom out of the press on both sides of the Atlantic. Either he's taking out cryptic ads promoting his "genius", or he's promoting his idiosyncratic style of what he terms "hype art", or he's threatening to sue the American studio that gave him his Hollywood break and even sue the US Actors' Guild over his recently completed feature film *American History X* — despite its good reviews.

Now Kaye has stunned the London ad industry by issuing a writ for £1 million alleging breach of contract and misappropriation of funds against three of the former top managers at his eponymous commercials production company.

The writ against the trio — who all left the company this summer — claims unauthorised transfer of funds amounting to £241,174, misuse of credit cards to the tune of £430,000, and £400,000 in unexplained expenses.

However, the three men — David Wardlaw, Graham Collis and Stephen Lepley — refute the allegations as "nonsense". They say they will issue a counter claim for breach of contract, alleging financial irregularities within Kaye's businesses.

But aside from the astonishing sums allegedly unaccounted for in what is a relatively small turnover business (£4 million to £6 million a year), it is some of the more salacious details of the dispute that have had minds boggling in Soho. Kaye's solicitors, Bird & Bird, claim that included in the unaccounted-for expenses is approximately £10,000 spent in a single night at a hostess bar called the Blue Angel. Wardlaw, as reported in *Campaign*, rejected the allegation, claiming the money had been repaid.

Well, that's all right then! £10,000 in one night at a hostess bar? Who said the good old bad old days of advertising excess were over? The mercurial Kaye, who once won more than £600,000 in a dispute with Saatchi & Saatchi over a British Airways commercial, is likely to stop at nothing to win the case.

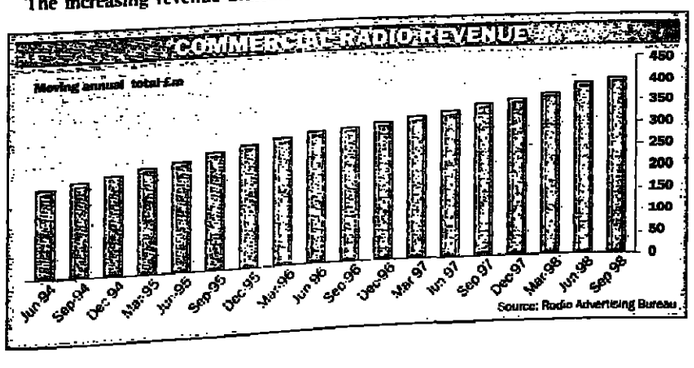
As ever, the lawyers will be the only real winners, and the image of the ad industry will take yet another pounding.

● *Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of* Campaign

COMMERCIAL radio revenue continues its upward momentum, with figures for the third quarter of 1998 hitting £99.6 million, up 11.5 per cent on 1997.

The figures bring the total for the 12 months to September 1998 to £400 million-plus — up 17.4 per cent year on year.

The increasing revenue indicates that radio has matured as an advertising medium. Share and reach cannot be expected to post hefty gains any longer, but clearly they do not need to in order for revenues to increase. Commercial radio claimed a 5.5per cent share of all display advertising in Quarter 2 1998, according to Advertising Association figures.



Share of listening, however, showed a 0.1 per cent fall for all commercial radio year-on-year. That figure was dragged down by national stations, which lost 0.4 per cent of listening share, while local commercial, in fact, gained 0.9 per cent.

Weekly reach for all commercial radio also showed a slight drop, falling to 58.7 per cent in the third quarter of this year, compared with 60.1 per cent in the previous quarter.

Year on year, though, that reach is a slight improvement over Q3 1997, which stood at 58 per cent.

Lastly, total adult listening hours for all commercial radio stations dropped a little this quarter, compared with Quarter 2, to 421,704 hours. This represents, however, an improvement on the same period last year of 3.6 per cent.

● *MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at http://www.mediatel.co.uk (0171-439 7575).*

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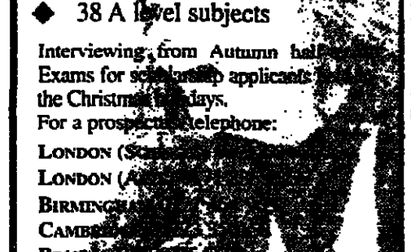
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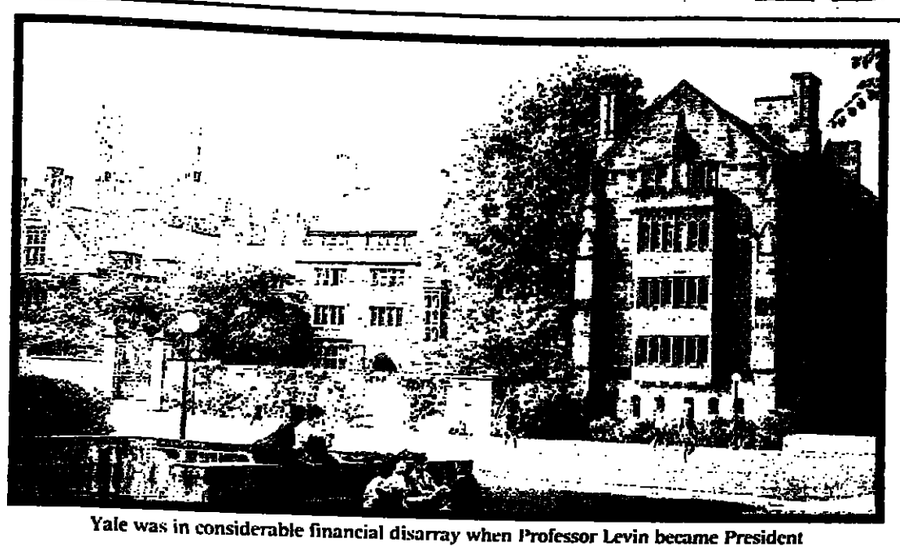
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THE TIMES
EDUCATION



Yale was in considerable financial disarray when Professor Levin became President

Yale's key to world status

The economist who rescued an Ivy League college says universities must bring in more money. Interview by **John O'Leary**

The leaders of arguably the two best universities in the world were in Oxford this week to be fêted by their alma mater. Amid the pomp and nostalgia, they can only have been reassured that the balance of academic power has shifted decisively in their favour since they first saw the dreaming spires.

Professor Richard Levin, President of Yale University, and Professor Neil Rudenstine, his opposite number at Harvard, were students at Oxford more than 30 years ago. The unique ceremony that brought them both back to Britain to receive honorary degrees served as an occasion for polite ribbing about the rivalry between America's most famous universities.

The more tempting comparison from a British point of view, however, is with Oxford and Cambridge. Yale, in particular, has striking similarities with our ancient universities: almost 300 years old, it is tiny by American standards with only 5,300 undergraduates, divided into colleges on the Oxbridge model, a byword for academic excellence and a breeding-ground for the great and the good.

Running a world-class university is increasingly expensive, however, and here the transatlantic parallels stop. Oxford and Cambridge receive about £6,000 a year per undergraduate in grants and fees; Yale charges £18,000 a year for tuition, bed and board, and even that does not cover the full cost.

Professor Levin is too much of a diplomat to run down his old university. Before returning to New Haven, he insisted that "it is still the case that the leading universities in the United States regard Oxford and Cambridge as peer institutions". But he had to acknowledge that the funding gap made it increasingly difficult for the British universities to compete at the highest level of research.

Top academics, particularly in the sciences, demand high salaries and expensive facilities. Although Oxford and Cambridge have succeeded in luring some back from America — their current Vice-Chancellors are prime examples — the flow is mainly in the opposite direction. Yale has a number of prominent British academics on its staff, some recruited only this year.

The financial advantages that make this possible were already becoming established when Professor Levin was at Merton College at the end of the 1960s. "The US Government's generous funding for scientific enterprise in the years after the war gave us a very strong base on which to build," he says. "That infusion of resources has continued, with occasional bumps along the road, and we have been able to add to it ourselves."

The scale of the academic business, which all universities have become, is almost unimaginable on this side of the Atlantic. When Professor Levin took over the presidency in 1993, Yale was running a deficit of almost £11 million a year — about a third of the annual income of smaller universities in Britain at the time. He has since overseen a fundraising campaign, which has produced more than £1 billion, investing nearly £400 million in campus facilities.

Oxford raised £341 million in Britain's most successful academic appeal, which ended formally in 1994. It has since enjoyed some spectacular benefactions such as Wafiq Said's £30 million gift for the business school that will bear his name, but the most optimistic fundraiser could not aspire to Yale's riches.

Professor Levin says: "We are fortunate even by American standards — only eight or ten institutions get such a large proportion of their revenue from gifts and endowments. But philanthropy is a much more powerful tradition in the United States. We never had this great dependence on the State that developed in Britain."

> The funding gap makes it increasingly difficult for British universities to compete

Half all Yale's graduates give money to the university each year, and almost three quarters did so during the five-year appeal. "Each generation of students feels an obligation to help the next, just as previous generations helped them," Professor Levin says.

Even so, the appeal was slow to get off the ground because Yale was in considerable disarray when Professor Levin became President. The Dean of the college (Yale's undergraduate half) and Provost had resigned the previous year, as well as the President, and many graduates wondered if they would be pouring good money after bad. Many elegant campus buildings had fallen into disrepair and the university's place at the pinnacle of American higher education was under threat.

Professor Levin, an economist who had spent his entire working life at Yale, was chosen partly for the diplomatic skills he would need to drive through a programme of staffing cuts. But his financial strategy, implemented with the aid of one of America's most successful corporate investment managers, has left the university in a stronger position than reasonably could have been expected. The total endowment is up to £3.5 billion, the campus has been repaired and the university is ready for a new phase of development.

As a distinguished academic, Professor Levin does not want to be remembered merely as a "genial Mr Fix-It", as the university newspaper has dubbed him. His critics have accused him of lacking vision, but a high-powered team is now mulling over Yale's future direction.

Soon after his appointment, Professor Levin famously stood on a chair among his colleagues and shouted "I really love this place". When he held out successfully against expansion, there were those who feared that he loved it too much as it was. But growth is back on the long-term agenda, and he has plans to strengthen parts of the university "where we can make a difference".

These are likely to include the environmental sciences, where he believes that Yale could be a world leader, with undergraduate programmes ripe for further development and policy research already strong. Greater involvement in distance education is also likely, mainly for professional development rather than undergraduate courses, and international activity is also earmarked for further expansion.

Not that Yale is in academic decline. It tied with Harvard and Princeton for top place in this year's rankings for undergraduate education, the quality of applicants is higher than ever and research income is growing rapidly. But the university remains in Harvard's shadow in terms of public profile.

"Harvard is much bigger, it has greater depth of faculty and it is more visible internationally as a result," Professor Levin says. "That is one of the things we want to address."

Domestically, Yale's traditions and its high-profile graduates assure it of a place in the nation's consciousness. Three of the last five Presidents, including Bill Clinton, were educated there, and celebrity graduates such as Meryl Streep and Paul Newman attract those who recoil from politicians.

Yale does not suffer to anything like the same extent as Oxford and Cambridge do from an image of social exclusivity. The size of its endowment ensures that any applicant who meets the stringent entry requirements can be supported financially, if necessary. More than 90 per cent of students receive some support, and the average debt on graduation is about £10,000 — a figure likely to be exceeded in Britain before long.

Professor Levin, who met a group of Vice-Chancellors in London during his visit, is convinced that the leading British universities will have to take the same route if they are to continue to compete with the best. "The current fees will not produce the money a top university needs, and I imagine that this will be an interim stage to a system more like the American one."

DES JENSON



Professor Richard Levin famously stood on a chair and shouted to his colleagues: "I really love this place"

Muddle over modular A levels

Coursework is overwhelming, says **Susan Elkin**

Modular courses are all the educational rage and next week's school league tables will underline again the advantages enjoyed by students taking modular A levels. Research has shown grades to be consistently higher than on traditional courses.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, has decreed that he wants all A-level courses to become modular, with bite-sized chunks examined periodically during the course, culminating in a final grade. But has he thought about the practicalities?

I have just completed my first full cycle of teaching modular A-level English. The final grades were pleasingly high, but the continuous anxiety during the course led one student to remark: "The whole thing's been a nightmare."

Most pupils arrive in A-level classes at age 16, "just three years out of GCSE nappies", as a student once described it, and unless Lord Dearing's proposals for A-level reform are implemented, a change to this is unlikely. A-level examinations are set at the uniform standard designed for the end of the time-honoured two-year course. If you try to cram in a chunk of A-level work in the first term or two of year 12 and then enter students for the examination, a substantial number do badly. Has Mr Blunkett considered how demoralising this can be?

This is not the pupils' fault; most students would have sailed through, given another year. Of course, they can retake, but their initial failure leads to enormous distress.

Meanwhile, some students have excelled and are ready to move on. How does Mr Blunkett expect such mixed classes to be taught? Half are now working for two modules, and are having to do twice as much work as their peers — while the other half are forging ahead on a single new module.

The only way to make this work effectively would be almost to negotiate an individual learning programme with every student. But current A-levels syllabuses are, mainly, theory-based and students need an abundance of the sort of information that comes largely from fairly traditional teaching. It would be impossible for me to ensure that enough knowledge is gained by students about, say, *Measure for Measure* without a great deal of whole-group, teacher-led discussion.

The same goes for my colleagues in the history department trying to teach, for instance, dictators of the 20th century, and for modern languages teachers working on vocabulary and grammar, not to mention the scientists and mathematicians.

Timetabling these modules is complex. Most schools have just continued as they have done for decades, allotting eight periods per week for each A-level subject. In practice, what happens is that a student might be taking several modular examinations from various A-level subjects during any one of the four exam sessions which fall in the two years. Naturally, this student's attention will be focused entirely on those examinations. The student will put all other work aside for quite long stretches and will be given — or simply take — study leave. Frequently in the past two years, my students have not produced homework or have missed my lessons because of work for another subject's module. The time "lost" adds up to many weeks. Result? Some fall seriously behind.

In fact, the pattern of the school year doesn't fit modular arrangements. Exams are currently set biannually in January and June, so they don't even fall at the end of unbroken blocks of teaching time. If modules-for-all are to become a reality, we must move to a four or five-term year.

What price must students then pay for a rounded education? If you condemn them to two years of frenzied, near-continuous cramming, and the repeated resitting of examinations, when are they suppose to play in sports teams and to take part in plays? Such extra-curricular activities are falling off, although they are prized by future employers and by universities.

We need dramatically different kinds of syllabuses which can be learnt in a much more ad hoc way. The concept of school education being a group of young people shut in a room with a teacher for a fixed time — at least at post-16 age group — will probably have to go. So will the traditional three-term year and long, unevenly spaced holidays. At present we are trying to ram a square peg into a round hole, and the cracks are beginning to show.

Why children must learn to make it

Pupils without a practical education are missing out. **John Eggleston** reports

We all know about the merits of academic success at school. Pupils are coaxed towards what is commonly believed to be the pinnacle of their school careers — GCSEs and then A levels. But throughout Britain, the familiar anguish of factory managers is "We are desperate for bright, practical kids — why can't the schools deliver them any more?" At the same time, careers teachers can be heard to tell their pupils: "I know you love making things but if you want to be an engineer, it's got to be maths and physics A level, not design and technology."

This week the Crafts Council held a conference to present the findings of "Learning Through Making", its two-year investigation examining the benefits of craft-based experience at every stage of education. The controversial challenge was to emphasise to policymakers in education and industry just how vital it is to devise a national curriculum that timetables the development of creative and practical skills.

The academic anti-practical work ideology pervades our education system and much of society. Our economy pays the price as foreign cars dominate our roads and refits of the *QE2* and other such contracts go abroad. "In the next century, creativity and knowledge will be the key tools," Tony Blair has acknowleged, "and Britain has always been a world leader in creativity and innovation." But results show that time given to these skills is inadequate.

The research was undertaken at Loughborough, Middlesex and Sheffield Hallam Universities. The concept of "craft" was far wider than even the Crafts Council had expected. It ranged from sophisticated cookery, vintage train restorations through to major industrial activity on film sets. Like all good research, the results accord with common sense — the hope is that added legitimacy will guarantee improvement.

Middlesex University's results, based on interviews with more than a thousand employees, teachers and pupils across the South East of England, showed unanimous enthusiasm for intelligent and practical education. They showed enhanced employability and commitment to personal relationships. Those involved with crafts and practical skills were definitely not found to be problem children or problem workers.

One of the key findings was that there is a desperate shortage of workers with basic practical competence, and now many young people face unemployment because they lack any practical skills. Children enjoy making things at school and are keen to do more until, sadly, they are seduced by the academic values of the education system. Many pupils are unable to respond to these values and so are destined to be considered as low achievers. The research also confirms what many teachers already know — that a programme of practical activities enhances the capabilities of most children in the basic subjects: English, maths and science. The Government has abandoned obligatory design, technology and art in primary schools and is reducing it in the 13-plus age group.

Further on, the students who do persevere and graduate in practical design-related studies find themselves well-placed in key economic activities, ranging from modelling prostheses and car prototypes to designing sets for *Titanic*. But even they may experience a spell of unemployment or part-time working before senior management is willing to recognise and engage their talent. The Crafts Council research also painted a wider picture, demonstrating the huge public enthusiasm for practical creativity involving adult leisure activity, ranging from basic DIY to highly skilled craft activities. Much of the enjoyment was seen to spring from beginnings achieved in school although often regarded as frustratingly insufficient.

The results of the Crafts Council initiative are being circulated and hopefully read widely, especially at senior management and policy level. It is vital that they are, because sadly, this may be the Crafts Council's swansong as an independent body. It faces absorption and possible dispersion within the Arts Council under a government reorganisation.

● *The author is Professor of Education at the University of Warwick*

NEIL TURNER



Competence building: technology studies at Lyndhurst School in Borehamwood

Disquiet over work safety fines

Regina v F. Howe and Son (Engineers) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Scott Baker and Mr Justice Hughes

[Judgment November 6]

In recent years there had been increasing recognition of the seriousness of health and safety offences, and disquiet had been expressed that the level of fine for such offences was too low.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division so stated when giving reasons for allowing, on October 26, 1998, appeals by F. Howe and Son (Engineers) Ltd against fines totalling £48,000 and an order for costs of £7,500, imposed on November 10, 1997 by Judge Fanner at Bristol Crown Court following pleas of guilty to four offences under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and related regulations. The fine was reduced to £15,000.

Mr Ian Dixey for the appellant; Mr Hugh Carlisle, QC and Mr Oba Nsugbe for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER, giving the reserved reasons of the court, said that the appellant company was a small precision engineering company. The prosecution came about as a result of a fatal accident which occurred on August 13, 1996 when an employee aged 20 was electrocuted while cleaning the appellant's factory.

The general duties of employers under the 1974 Act were qualified by taking steps so far as were reasonably practicable. Failure to fulfil the general duties was particularly serious as those duties were the foundations for protecting health and safety.

In the early 1990s Parliament introduced the exemplary maximum fine of £20,000 for breach of the general duties under sections 2 to 6 of the Act where the offence was dealt with summarily.

Following that, the average fine in the magistrates courts, per offence prosecuted, had risen but it was still less than one third of the maximum. In the crown court, where the level of fine was unlimited, the 1997/98 average fine per offence was £17,768.

Disquiet had been expressed in several quarters that the level of fine for such offences was too low. The circumstances of individual cases of course varied almost infinitely and very few cases reached the Court of Appeal.

Accordingly it was difficult for judges and magistrates, who only rarely dealt with those cases, to have an instinctive feel for the appropriate level of penalty.

Their Lordships would endeavour to outline some of the relevant factors that should be taken into account, emphasising that it was impossible to lay down any tariff or to say that the fine should bear any specific relationship to the turnover or net profit of the defendant. Each case must be dealt with according to its own peculiar circumstances.

In assessing the gravity of the breach it was often helpful to look at how far short of the appropriate standard the defendant fell in failing to meet the "reasonably practicable" test.

Next, it was often a matter of chance whether death or serious injury resulted from even a serious breach. Generally where death was the consequence of a criminal act it was regarded as an aggravating feature of the offence. The penalty should reflect public disquiet at the unnecessary loss of life.

Cost cutting was a crucial tool in achieving a competitive edge. A deliberate breach of the health and safety legislation with a view to profit seriously aggravated the offence.

There was some evidence that safety standards in small organisations might generally be lower than in larger ones. It should be emphasised that the standard of care imposed by the legislation was the same; the size of a company and its financial strength or weakness could not affect the degree of care that was required in matters of safety.

Other matters that might be relevant to sentence were the degree of risk and extent of the danger created by the offence; the extent of the breach or breaches, for example whether it was an isolated incident or continued over a period; and, importantly, the defendant's resources and the effect of the fine on its business.

Particular aggravating features would include (i) a failure to heed warnings and (ii) where the defendant had deliberately profited financially from a failure to take necessary health and safety steps or specifically run a risk to save money.

Particular mitigating features would include (i) prompt admission of responsibility and a timely plea of guilty, (ii) steps to remedy deficiencies after they were drawn to the defendant's attention and (iii) a good safety record.

Any fine should reflect not only the gravity of the offence but also the means of the offender. That applied just as much to corporate defendants as to any other: see section 18(3) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

Difficulty was sometime found in obtaining timely and accurate information about a corporate defendant's means. The starting point was its annual accounts. Usually accounts needed to be considered with some care to avoid reaching a superficial and perhaps erroneous conclusion.

Where accounts or other financial information were deliberately not supplied, the court would be entitled to conclude that the company was in a position to pay any financial penalty it was minded to impose.

The objective of prosecutions for health and safety offences in the work place was to achieve a safe environment for those who worked there and for other members of the public who might be affected.

Where the defendant was a company, a fine needed to be large enough to bring that message home, not only to those who managed it but also to its shareholders.

In the present case, in their Lordships' judgment there appeared to have been a flagrant disregard for the safety of the company's employees. Corners were cut and no real attention was paid to electrical safety.

The case had come before the crown court because the magistrates, following submissions by the prosecution, had declined jurisdiction. They were right to do so. This was a bad case involving a fatality.

In their Lordships' judgment magistrates should always think carefully before accepting jurisdiction in health and safety at work cases, where it was arguable that the fine might exceed the limit of their jurisdiction or where death or serious injury had resulted from the offence.

However, in their Lordships' judgment the judge in the present case gave inadequate weight to the financial position of the appellant. It might well be that he did so because such information as he had was not supplied until the very last moment.

But this was a small company with limited resources. Neither the fine nor the costs were deductible against tax, and therefore the full burden fell upon the company.

In the circumstances the appropriate fine was one totalling £15,000; thus the total financial burden upon the appellant would be reduced from £55,500 to £22,500.

Solicitors: Cartwrights, Bristol; Solicitor, Health and Safety Executive.

ITC power over pay channels

Regina v Independent Television Commission, Ex parte Flextech plc and Others

Before Mr Justice Maurice Kay

[Judgment November 6]

The Independent Television Commission, as a regulatory body concerned with the provision of programme services, had the power under section 2(2) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 to prohibit clauses in carriage agreements which they considered to be inconsistent with fair and effective competition.

Where, therefore, the provision of a particular service could only be purchased as part of a package of other services, some of which might be unwanted, at a price which reflected the whole package, that affected the availability of the service and accordingly the ITC's duty under section 2(2)(a)(i) of the 1990 Act to act to ensure a wide range of services was available did extend to regulating the terms on which existing services were offered to viewers.

Mr Justice Maurice Kay so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review of the decision of the ITC on June 26, 1998, inter alia, prohibiting the licensee from entering into or seeking to enforce or observe any contract or contractual term which had the effect, either directly or indirectly, of preventing subscribers from buying on an à la carte basis from any package of basic channels any premium channel available to the licensee.

The decision provided that any premium channel offered by the licensee to subscribers was to be made on an à la carte basis in combination with any package of basic channels.

Flextech plc and Sci-Fi Channel Europe LLC were channel providers, who entered into carriage agreements with British Sky Broadcasting Ltd and with cable operators in order to distribute their television services and obtain access to pay television subscribers.

Pay TV channels were delivered for home reception by satellite through BSkyB or by cable transmission through cable operators.

Basic channels were sold to subscribers as part of a basic tier for which the retailer was charged a single retail price. Generally subscribers had to buy a tier or bundle of a substantial number of basic channels which were not available individually or à la carte.

Premium channels were sold individually on an à la carte basis at a price per channel, being a higher price than for basic channels, or as part of a small bundle of channels. "Buy through" arrangements existed whereby subscribers were not able to purchase premium channels without purchasing a number of basic channels.

Minimum carriage requirements were an arrangement whereby carriage agreements between channel providers selling basic channels and their carriers contained a clause under which the carrier agreed to distribute such channels to a predetermined proportion of the carrier's total number of subscribers.

Flextech and Sci-Fi held licences issued by the ITC, as did BSkyB and the cable operators.

By section 4(1)(a) of the 1990 Act, a licence granted by the ITC could include such conditions as appeared to the commission to be appropriate. Section 4(2)(a) stated that a licence could include conditions requiring the licence holder to comply with any direction given by the commission as to matters regarding the licence.

Licences granted by the ITC included conditions 9 and 12 which, inter alia, required the licensees to comply with the directions, including directions issued for the purpose of ensuring fair and effective competition.

The ITC defined minimum carriage requirements as any contractual term which by itself or in conjunction with other terms in the same or similar contracts, had the effect, either directly or indirectly of preventing, restricting or distorting a distributor's ability to develop market and retail packages of basic channels offered to a group of subscribers in the UK.

The ITC had statutory duties which included the duty under section 2(2) of the Broadcasting Act 1990: "(a) to discharge their functions ... as respects the licensing of ... services ... in the manner which they consider is best calculated - (i) to ensure that a wide range of such services is available throughout the United Kingdom, and (ii) to ensure fair and effective competition in the provision of such services and services connected with them..."

Flextech and Sci-Fi sought judicial review of the June 26 decision on the grounds, inter alia, that the ITC did not have power under section 2(2) of the 1990 Act to interfere with existing contractual rights, alternatively that they had abused that power; nor did they have the power to prohibit minimum carriage requirements, alternatively, that their definition of minimum carriage requirements was void for uncertainty.

BSkyB, Cable and Wireless Communications plc and NTL Inc were interested parties.

Ms Presiley Baxendale, QC and Ms Monica Carss-Frisk for Flextech and Sci-Fi; Mr Duncan Ouseley, QC and Ms Dinah Rose for ITC; Mr Nicholas Green, QC and Mr Michael Fordham for BSkyB; Mr Robert Anderson for Cable and Wireless and NTL.

MR JUSTICE MAURICE KAY said that ITC sought to resist every challenge on the merits.

Interference with existing contractual rights

His Lordship agreed with Mr Ouseley's submissions that the provisions in the 1990 Act were clear and unambiguous and were not obscure or productive of absurdity.

The ITC had the function of regulating the provision of certain services: see section 2(1). In discharging that function they had a duty to ensure that a wide range of services was available and to ensure fair and effective competition in the provision of such services: section 2(2)(a).

That function overlapped with those of other competition authorities: section 2(3). Regulation was carried out at least in part by a system of licensing: sections 2(2)(a) and 3.

Licences could include conditions which appeared to the ITC to be appropriate, having regard to their duties, and could include conditions requiring the licence holder to comply with any direction given by the ITC as to such matters as were specified in the licence; and, pursuant to those provisions, the licences in the present case included conditions 9 and 12.

The statutory provisions were clear and unambiguous. The ITC's decision was not unlawful

Scope of section 2(2)(a)(i)

In his Lordship's judgment, a body charged with the duty of ensuring that a wide range of services was available was fully entitled to concern itself with the basis upon which those services were made available.

If a particular service could only be purchased as part of a package with other services, a least some of which might be unwanted, and at a price which reflected the whole package, those were matters which went towards the availability of the particular service.

His Lordship was satisfied that regarding the extent to which the ITC had relied upon section 2(2)(a)(i) they were acting intra vires. The fact that some other regulatory statutes in other sectors defined the functions, powers, and duties of regulators differently or more extensively was not in point.

The ITC had a duty to act in the manner which they considered was best calculated to ensure that a wide range of services was available and they were entitled to consider that the prohibition contained in the decision would improve the availability of services.

Scope of section 2(2)(a)(ii)

His Lordship said that section 2(2)(a)(ii) conferred a wide power to ensure fair and effective competition. It was not limited by the fact that the Director General for Fair Trading, the Secretary of State and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had concurrent competition powers.

Parliament had provided special, sectoral competition powers which could be used in a more specific and less cumbersome way. They were not immune from judicial review but such review would generally be on *Wednesbury* grounds of unreasonableness ([1948] 1 KB 223) rather than on the basis of an inappropriately narrow and artificial construction of the Act.

Certainty

In his Lordship's judgment the wide definition of minimum carriage requirements was justified for anti-avoidance reasons. In common with many other regulatory provisions, particularly in the sphere of competition, it was directed at effects.

Its application would require judgment at various levels but its wording was not such as to be tainted by legal uncertainty. Nor was the adoption of the wording *Wednesbury unreasonable*.

For those and other reasons the application was refused.

Solicitors: Denton Hall; Simmons & Simmons; Herbert Smith; Charles Russell.

Libel can be sued in many jurisdictions

Berezovsky and Another v Forbes Inc and Another

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice May and Sir John Knox

[Judgment November 19]

An alleged libel published in more than one country could give rise to a cause of action in each country in which the victim was known and in which he claimed to have suffered injury. It could not be treated as giving rise to a single cause of action the trial of which the court could decide the most appropriate forum having regard to where the global cause of action arose.

The plaintiffs, Russian nationals suing a magazine published in the United States with an English circulation of 2,000, had established close connections with England and were entitled to sue here.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Boris Berezovsky and Nikolai Glouchkov against a decision of Mr Justice Popplewell (*The Times* January 19, 1998) granting an application under Order 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for a stay of their libel action against the defendants, Forbes Inc and James W. Michaels.

Mr James Price, QC, for the plaintiffs; Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC, and Miss Heather Rogers for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the plaintiffs' evidence before the judge of their connections with England had been very significantly amplified in further evidence which placed the strength of Mr Berezovsky's connections beyond doubt and showed that those of Mr Glouchkov were more than merely tenuous as the judge had held.

In *Shevill v Presse Alliance* (Case C-68/93) [1995] 2 AC 18), the European Court of Justice had determined that in the case of an international libel through the press, the injury caused by a defamatory publication to the good name of a person occurred in the places where the publication was distributed, when the victim was known in those places.

Mr Price had relied on *The Albaforth* ([1984] 2 Lloyd's LR 91) and *Schapira v Ahronson* (unreported, March 21, 1997) in which the Court of Appeal had refused to stay an action based on English publication of an article in a Hebrew newspaper printed in Israel, treating the English publication as a separate segment.

Mr Robertson had submitted that the correct approach was to treat multi-jurisdiction cases as giving rise to a single cause of action, and then to ascertain where the global cause of action arose.

Mr Robertson's underlying but unspoken assumption was that in defamation cases a plaintiff who had been defamed in a number of separate jurisdictions was confined to a single action in only one of those jurisdictions.

That approach was inconsistent with the basic principle that each publication was a separate tort and with the approach of the Court of Appeal in *Schapira v Ahronson*. It would disable the plaintiff from seeking in appropriate cases an injunction in all but the one country where he would be obliged to sue.

Both plaintiffs had established that England was the natural forum where the actions had their most real and substantial connection and where the case could most suitably be tried for the interests of all the parties and for the ends of justice, thus satisfying the *Spiliada Maritime Corporation v Cansulex* test ([1987] AC 460) in an Order 11 case.

Lord Justice May and Sir John Knox agreed.

Solicitors: Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners; Biddle & Co.

Resolving dispute over voluntary liquidator

In re Inside Sport Ltd

Where a dispute arose as to the identity of a person appointed as voluntary liquidator, the appropriate procedure was an application under section 171 of the Insolvency Act 1986 for the appointment of a fresh voluntary liquidator and not by way of petition to the court for a compulsory liquidation.

Mr Justice Lighman so stated in the Companies Court of the Chancery Division on November 2 when allowing, in the special circumstances, a creditor's petition for an order that Inside Sports Ltd be wound up by the court.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the issue was whether the court should order compulsory liquidation, so that the winding-up would be in the hands of a liquidator appointed by the court, or whether the voluntary liquidator who was in place should continue.

There was a close comparison between creditors supporting voluntary and those supporting compulsory liquidation. The latter might have a genuine sense of injustice should the voluntary liquidator continue. The appropriate course, which would save time and costs, would be for the petitioner to make a section 171 application for the appointment of a fresh voluntary liquidator.

Where the dispute concerned the identity of the voluntary liquidator, it was inappropriate to proceed by way of a compulsory liquidation.

However, the point had not been taken in a previous case and on the special facts of the present case, the petition would be allowed.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE



BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with *The Times*: Lesson 33 – Putting it into Practice

There have been several lessons now where I have concentrated on the bidding and before that, in MiniBridge, there was play but no bidding. Now it is time for a full hand.

You pick up as South:

♠ AQ ♡ K432 ♢ AJ105 ♣ J73

You count up your points, which come to 15 – too many for a 12-14 One No-Trump. As I said last week, when you have a balanced hand too strong for One No-Trump you choose a four-card major if possible, so here you open One Heart. Your partner responds Two Clubs, showing at least four clubs and at least 9 HCP (more on that in the next few weeks). So now you *rebid* Two No-Trumps, showing 15-16 HCP, and your partner raises you to Three No-Trumps.

West leads the five of spades and your partner puts down the dummy.

	♠ J106 ♡ 65 ♢ K983 ♣ AKQ5	
♠ K9754 ♡ A1087 ♢ 64 ♣ 62	N W E S	♠ 832 ♡ QJ9 ♢ Q72 ♣ 10984
	♠ AQ ♡ K432 ♢ AJ105 ♣ J73	

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: five of spades.

Count your tricks. You have two spades, two diamonds and four clubs, eight in all.

Where is your ninth trick to come from? The answer to that is from diamonds. You may not have to lose a trick to the queen of diamonds but even if you do you will then have *established* an extra diamond trick for your contract.

What can go wrong? If East gains the lead he may play a heart through your king and if the suit is distributed as above you will lose four tricks in the suit and go one down.

What can you do about it?

You can make sure you don't lose a trick to East.

Win the queen of spades. Play a diamond to dummy's king and a diamond back to your jack. If West wins there is no way the defenders can take four more tricks immediately and as soon as you gain the lead you will take nine.

Deal out the hand for yourself and make quite sure you understand the play.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS



BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Youngest champion

To launch *The Times* Kasparov Chess Challenge, I will be devoting this week to classic games by the champion. Today's game is possibly Kasparov's best known.

It was a tense and complicated battle, ultimate victory in which made him, at 22, the youngest world champion.

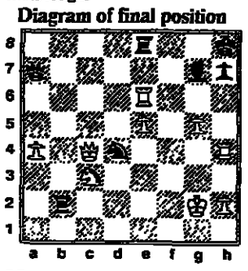
White: Anatoly Karpov
Black: Garry Kasparov
World championship
Moscow 1985

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Be2	e6
7	0-0	Be7
8	f4	0-0
9	Kh1	Qc7
10	a4	Nc6
11	Bc3	Re8
12	Bf3	Rb8
13	Qd2	Bd7
14	Nb3	b6
15	g4	Bc8
16	g5	Nd7
17	Qf2	Bf8
18	Bg2	Bb7
19	Rad1	g6
20	Bc1	Rbc8
21	Rd3	Nb4
22	Rh3	Bg7
23	Be3	Re7
24	Kg1	Rce8
25	Rd1	f5
26	gxf6	Nxf6
27	Rg3	Rf7
28	Bxb6	Qb8
29	Be3	Nh5
30	Rg4	Nf6
31	Rh4	g5
32	fxg5	Ng4
33	Qd2	Nxe3
34	Qxe3	Nxc2
35	Qb6	Bb8
36	Rxd6	Rc7
37	Qxa6	Rxb3
38	Rxe6	Rxb2
39	Qc4	Kh8
40	e5	Qa7+
41	Kh1	Bxg2+
42	Kxg2	Nd4+

White resigns

Diagram of final position



How to enter

To compete in the display against Kasparov, call 0640 678884, or 1550 122 152 from outside the UK. Calls cost 60p per minute in the UK and 58p per minute outside. The lines are now open until December 5. The display will take place on December 16 at the Berkeley Hotel, Mayfair, when Kasparov will face 25 tables of five people. Those who call the hotline will have to answer a question and the lucky ten will be drawn from those who answer successfully.

The Times has two of the 25 tables exclusively for our readers. Two conditions apply. Nobody with an ELO rating of more than 2,000 can compete, and normal *Times* conditions apply. The Editor's decision is final.

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HODAD
a. A stepfather
b. A surfing pest
c. A dance

MAZUMA
a. Dosh
b. A Peruvian semolina paste
c. A small ziggurat

HEORTOLOGY
a. Study of feasts
b. Gardening
c. Interpretation of dreams

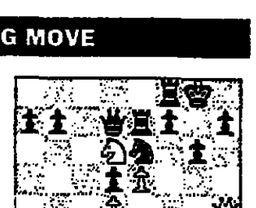
MOUSSEUX
a. Mossy
b. A cravat
c. Sparkling wine

Answers on page 54

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Mah-Vegh, Hampstead 1998. How did White combine his pressure on the long diagonal with his active pieces to score a quick win?



Solution on page 54

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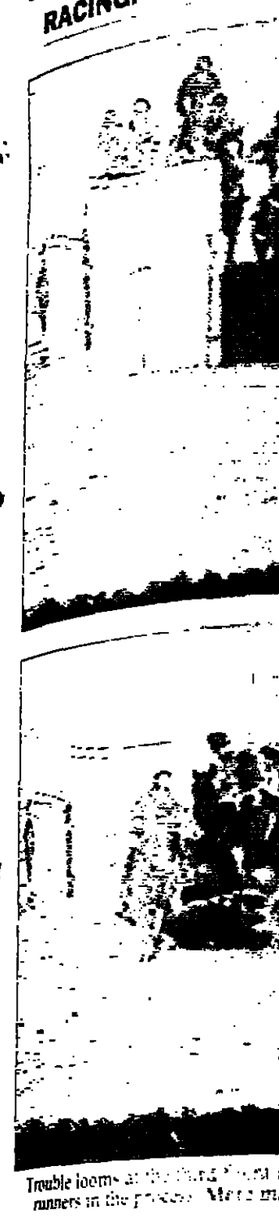
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Surname .....
Address .....
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TOMORROW SAVE 20% AT KNICKERBOX

CHANGING TIMES



Trouble looms ... runners in the ...

Shades

By Chris ...

WHOM ... the first ... them with ... National ... unflinching ... have been ... stopping ... day. ... prompted ... and current ... was more ... Fourteen ... course ... Grand National ... an emphasis ... and women ... as a matter of ... the Maple Jam ... lowly a contra ... Aintree ...

BANGOR

THUNDERER
1.20 Prussia, 1.50 Sports Fan, 2.20 ... Maestro, 2.50 Water Water, 3.20 ... 3.50 Powder Hound

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)

1.20 EYTON SELLING HURDLE (£2,295 3m 1f) ...

1.50 MALISE NICOLSON NOVICES CHASE (£3,534 3m 110yd) (6) ...

2.20 TOTE PLACEPOT 21ST BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,788 3m 1f) ...

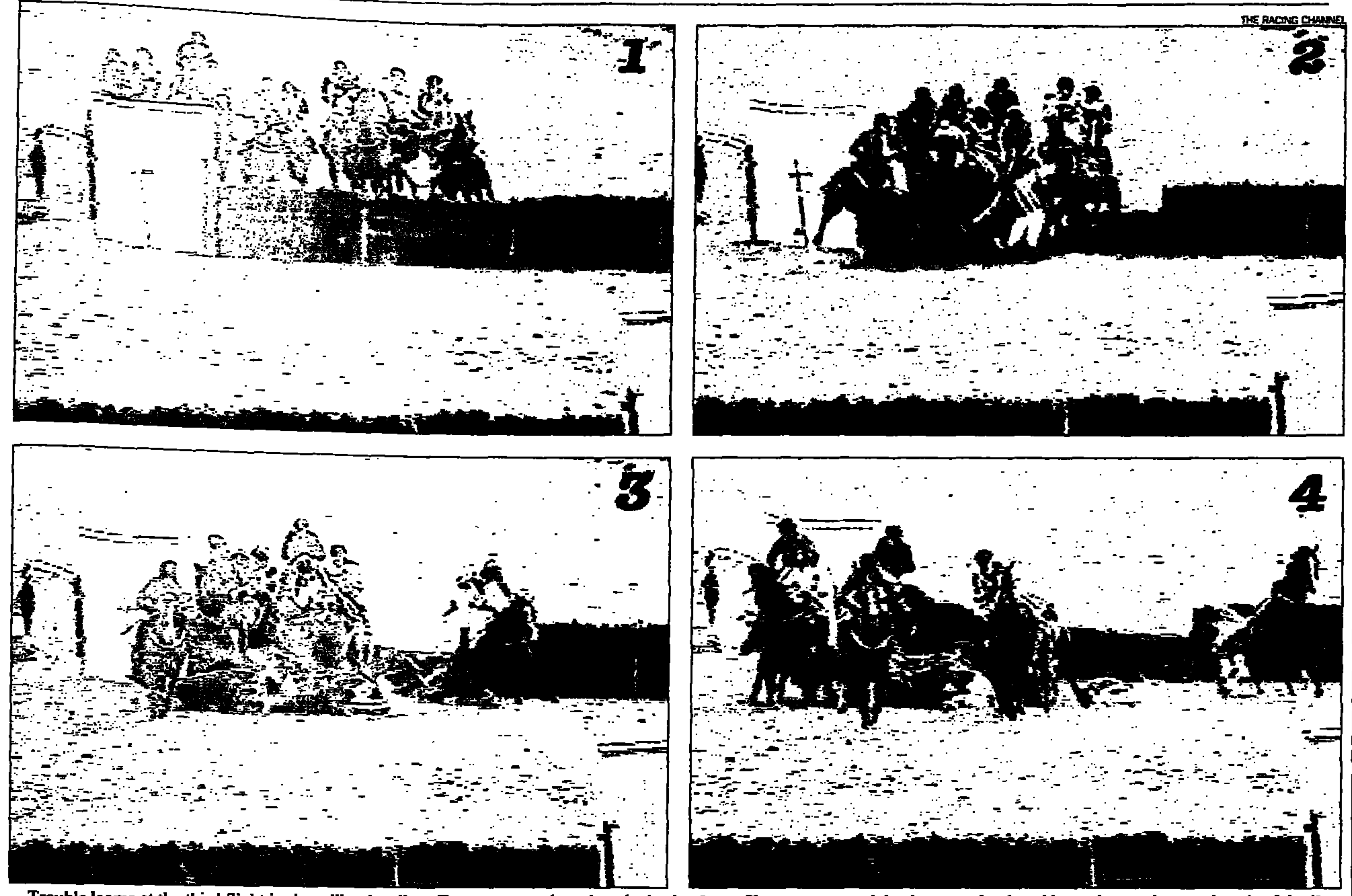
RESULTS FROM YE...

Uttoxeter

Going: ... Placepot: ... Taunt... Going: ... 1.25 ... 1.55 ... 2.25 ... 2.55 ... 3.25 ... 3.55 ... Jackpot: £5, Placepot: £8

RIDAY NOVEMBER 27 199
en's Bench Division
channels
ispute over
iquidator

RACING: RIDERS AND HORSES FORTUNATE TO ESCAPE SERIOUS INJURY AS ONE FLIGHT CLAIMS SEVEN CASUALTIES



Trouble looms at the third flight in the selling hurdle at Taunton yesterday when the leader, Ivory Charm, swerves violently, unseating her rider and removing another six of the 11 runners in the process. More mayhem followed as the riderless horses careered across the track, interfering with the survivors, but The Robe managed to steer a winning course

Shades of Foinavon in Taunton mêlée

By Chris McGrath

WHOM the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad. Then they issue them with a licence to ride under National Hunt rules. Rarely can the unflinching heroism of jump jockeys have been examined in such heart-stopping fashion as at Taunton yesterday, when a seven-horse pile-up prompted memories of Foinavon — and earnest gratitude that nobody was more seriously injured.

Foinavon's victory is treated as a tribute to the unique perils of the Grand National, but yesterday's drama emphasised that these men of iron (and women, too) face such dangers as a matter of daily routine. It came in the Maple Juvenile Selling Hurdle, as lowly a contrast to the glamour of Aintree as can be imagined.

As the 11 runners approached the third flight, Ivory Charm jinked wildly to the left — flinging Daragh O'Driscoll, her inexperienced partner, into the take-off side of the timber obstacle — and swung over it sideways-on. She landed in a sprawl that only the aptly-named Trouble In Store and three others could avoid.

The rest flowed helplessly into the mêlée, like the thrashing production line of some nightmarish factory. As horse after horse crashed into the ground, six jockeys were lost among the rolling bodies and flailing legs; as the horses rose, marvellously unscathed, their riders lay winded and flattened in the grass.

Nor was the danger over for those who had contrived to avoid the chaos. Ballykissann and then Trouble In Store were almost carried out by loose horses; then, as Warren Marston, and The Robe led the survivors past the dolled-off obstacle second time round, into the home straight, panic gripped the stands. Four horses, enjoying their sudden liberty, were galloping playfully up the straight — in the wrong direction.

Perhaps the most merciful stroke of luck to sustain this unfeasible series of escapes was the decision of these horses, halfway up the run-in, to turn round and join The Robe. Marston, who had steered to the right, was fortunate not to be forced over the final fence on the chase course.

As it was, the medical consequences were somehow restricted to "a few days" on the sidelines for Jim Culloty, who bruised a hip; wrist X-rays and a stitched lip for Jamie Magee; and the afternoon off for Rodney Farrant, who captured the indomitable spirit of his profession by saying: "I'm bruised all the way down my left side, but fingers crossed I'll be okay for Bangor tomorrow."

It is hard to conceive of a greater contrast on the Turf than that between these dramas and Sunday's Japan Cup, where Frankie Dettori and Faithful Son try to round off another remarkable year of international achievement for Godolphin.

Faithful Son is expected to be suited by the return to a mile and a half, having failed to stay in the Melbourne Cup, but Simon Crisford travels from Dubai in hope rather than expectation. "The horse has had a hard campaign and a tough travel schedule," Godolphin's racing manager said yesterday. "Any weak links are going to be exposed pretty quickly in a race like this. To win it, he'll have to be every bit as good as when he won at Royal Ascot and came second in the Eclipse. The ground is very firm, too. But he certainly deserves to take his chance, because his form is very good and he showed that the trip is okay for him in the Caulfield Cup."

Other overseas raiders for a race plundered last year by Pilsudski include Chief Bearhart, the Canadian colt who mounted such a gallant defence of the Breeders' Cup Turf 20 days ago, and Luso.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: WELSH MARCH
(2.50 Bangor)
Next best: Colonel In Chief
(2.00 Newbury)

Sagamix in line for World Cup

SAGAMIX, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, may put his unbeaten record on the line in the Dubai World Cup (Chris McGrath writes).

His four victories have all been in soft ground over a mile and a half, whereas the World Cup is over ten furlongs on dirt. A similar gamble almost paid off in this year's race, however, when Swain forced a photo-finish with Silver Charm. Sagamix's trainer, André Fabre, saddled Loup Sauvage to finish third.

The World Cup has lived up to its ambitious billing by producing three authentic champions from three runnings in Cigar, Singspiel and Silver Charm. Bob Baffert has indicated that Silver Charm, runner-up in the Breeders' Cup Classic last time, may defend the prize on March 28, while Might And Power has been nominated from Australia.

Godolphin has a number of possible candidates for a "home" win, including High-Rise, its newly recruited Derby winner.

BANGOR

THUNDERER
1.20 Prussia. 1.50 Shore Party. 2.20 Northern Maestro. 2.50 Welsh March. 3.20 Out By Night. 3.50 Powder Hound.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.20 EYTON SELLING HURDLE
(£2,295: 2m 1f) (11 runners)

1 1-25 MEG'S MEMORY 21 (D,S) A Streeter 5-11-7 ... R Johnson 81
2 4161 BARLEY MEADOW 15 (V,G) R Ford 6-11-5 N Horrocks (5) 86
3 5/ ALLEZ CYRANO 590 D Burchell 7-10-12 ... D J Burchell –
4 DANCING LAWYER 37F B Ellison 7-10-12 ... L Temple (7) –
5 0-03 FEARLESS WONDER 10 (S) R Lee 7-10-12 ... Miss K Di Marte (7) 83
6 /00- MAGNUS MAXIMUS 342 Mrs S Lamyman 6-10-12 ... R Farrant –
7 PFP- MONSIEUR PINK 304 A Streeter 6-10-12 ... J Goldstein (5) –
8 48F PALISANDER 98 R Ford 4-10-12 ... R McGrath 76
9 2R06 PRUSSIA 6 (F) W Clay 7-10-12 ... S Wynne 110
10 0P-P TWO LORDS 30 M Tate 6-10-12 ... T Jenks 20
11 3-55 ABSOLUTE PROOF 11 W G M Turner 5-10-7 ... J Power (7) 57

11-4 Prussia, 7-2 Meg's Memory, 4-1 Barley Meadow, 7-1 others.

1.50 MALISE NICOLSON NOVICES CHASE
(£3,534: 3m 110yd) (6)

1 212U SHORE PARTY 14 (D,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-5 C Maude 118
2 1-24 CHEROKEE BOY 9 (D,G,S) B Preece 6-10-12 ... R Johnson 102
3 2/PF LAGEN BRIDGE 13 (D,G,S) D Moffatt 9-10-12 ... D J Moffatt –
4 06/2 LOTHIAN COMMANDER 22 D McCain 6-10-12 ... S Wynne 60
5 P-P5 LUNAR DANCER 8 (F) P Dalton 6-10-12 Mr R Forristal (7) –
6 P-F0 DONNRUA 9 (D,S) F Jordan 7-10-7 ... R Massey (3) –

4-7 Shore Party, 7-2 Cherokee Boy, 6-1 Lagen Bridge, 8-1 Lothian Commander, 33-1 others.

2.20 TOTE PLACEPOT 21ST BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,788: 2m 1f) (9)

1 01-3 TOTALLY YOURS 24 (B,D,F,G,S) F Jordan 5-11-13 B Fenton 108
2 -538 NOBLE COLOURS 31 (D,F,G) S Griffiths 5-11-8 M Griffiths (5) 112
3 3/5/ HARDING 751 (S) S Mellor 7-11-5 ... C Webb –
4 2334 DISTANT STORM 15 (B,D,S) B Llewellyn 5-11-2 Miss E Jones 99
5 4-F0 EBEN AL HABEEB 6 (CD,S) D McCain 7-10-6 ... S Wynne 105
6 0041 NORTHERN MAESTRO 8 (V,D,G) J Mackie 4-10-5 (7ex) ... J Goldstein (5) 114
7 10-2 ROYAL THEN 57 (V,G) J Neville 5-10-3 ... R Johnson 98
8 35-0 MUIZENBERG 48 (G) E Owen Jun 11-10-0 ... T Eley 50
9 12/4 PHARLY REEF 20 (G) D Burchell 6-10-0 ... D J Burchell 65

3-1 Royal Then, 9-2 Totally Yours, Northern Maestro, 6-1 Distant Storm, 8-1 others.

2.50 MORRIS NICHOLSON CARTWRIGHT HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,879: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1 141/ NOYAN 583 (D,F,G,S) K Ryan 8-12-0 ... R Thornton –
2 42P- EVEN BLUE 273 (BF,CD,S) Mrs C Black 10-11-2 S Wynne 140
3 2-12 CHEROKEE CHIEF 17 (S) O Sherwood 7-10-11 ... J A McCarthy 140
4 2-2F WELSH MARCH 12 (BF,S) G M Moore 6-10-9 ... R Johnson 132
5 333- SISTER ROSZA 273 (CD,S) Mrs S Lamyman 10-10-4 ... R Farrant 136
6 P-3F LOBSTER COTTAGE 25 (G,S) K Bailey 10-10-2 R Wakley (3) 142

7-4 Welsh March, 2-1 Cherokee Chief, 11-2 Even Blue, 7-1 Sister Rosza, 10-1 Noyan, 12-1 Lobster Cottage

3.20 LLANARMON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,599: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1 4-03 NASAYER 21 N Mason 8-11-10 ... R Guest 86
2 0-34 MURRAY'S MILLION 20 J Smith 6-11-8 ... W Marston –
3 2-3F OUT BY NIGHT 12 (BF) G M Moore 7-11-4 ... J Callaghan 98
4 26-U TREMALLT 10 T George 7-11-0 ... T Jenks –
5 3324 FOLLOW DE CALL 36 (G) D McCain 8-10-11 ... S Wynne 93
6 PP-3 ALICAT 78 N Babbage 7-10-0 ... B Fenton 83

9-4 Out By Night, 11-4 Follow De Call, 4-1 Nasayer, 9-2 Tremallt, 11-2 Murray's Million, 33-1 Alicat

3.50 RIDGWAY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,794: 2m 1f) (12)

1 /P6- ALTHREY CAPTAIN 364 W Clay 8-10-12 ... S Wynne –
2 22-P ARTIC GROUND 13 P R Webber 6-10-12 ... R Garritty –
3 00-3 BLACK BULLET 22 A Streeter 5-10-12 ... T Eley 63
4 24-5 BOMBADIL 21 Mrs S Lamyman 6-10-12 ... R Farrant 75
5 00- CONSTANT HUSBAND 216 R N Bevis 5-10-12 ... J Culloty –
6 00-4 FIT TO BUST 22 N Babbage 5-10-12 ... B Fenton 58
7 P/4- GENTRY 536 (BF) D McCain 7-10-12 ... B Harding –
8 4-F4 PERCY PARKEEPER 16 (S) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 C Maude 88
9 3-22 POWDER HOUND 20 (BF) I Williams 5-10-12 ... R Wakley (3) 79
10 10-3 PROFESSOR COOL 8 (G) J Mackie 5-10-12 ... E Husband 78
11 3-3P GLACIAL MISSILE 12 P Bowen 5-10-7 ... W Marston –
12 000/ SINGING SCALLY 996 W Clay 7-10-7 ... G Lee –

2-1 Powder Hound, 9-4 Percy Parkeeper, 8-1 Black Bullet, Professor Cool, 10-1 Gentry, 12-1 Artic Ground, 14-1 Bombadil, Glacial Missile, 25-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P R Webber, 6 winners from 22 runners, 27.3%; O Sherwood, 5 from 22, 22.7%; J Mackie, 11 from 62, 17.7%; N Twiston-Davies, 12 from 69, 17.4%; D Burchell, 3 from 18, 16.7%; A Streeter, 3 from 21, 14.3%; K Bailey, 4 from 29, 13.8%; R Lee, 4 from 32, 12.5%; G M Moore, 3 from 25, 12.0%; P Bowen, 3 from 38, 10.7%.

JOCKEYS: R McGrath, 3 winners from 12 rides, 25.0%; W Marston, 11 from 63, 17.5%; D J Burchell, 3 from 18, 16.7%; J McCarthy, 3 from 23, 13.0%; T Eley, 11 from 93, 11.8%; R Johnson, 9 from 77, 11.7%; R Garritty, 3 from 27, 11.1%; R Guest, 6 from 58, 10.3%; R Farrant, 4 from 40, 10.0%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
12.10 Satwa Boulevard. 12.40 Pegasus Bay. 1.10 Catfoot Lane. 1.40 Cantgetyourbreath. 2.10 Sweet Compliance. 2.40 Riffi. 3.10 Dancing Wolf. 3.40 Ginzbourg.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW BEST SIS

12.10 CONFERENCE STAGING MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: 3-Y-O: £2,749: 1m) (9 runners)

1 0000 BIT OF A LAD 28 R Flower 9-0 ... F Norton 5
2 0056 LORENZO 7 (V) K Mahdi 9-0 ... J Tate 4
3 4306 RITUAL 128 S Dow 9-0 ... P Doe (5) 7
4 0 RUSHED 225 G Enright 9-0 ... P Fessey 2
5 00-0 JONATHAN'S GIRL 10 J Bridger 8-9 ... S Whitworth 6
6 0- KING'S MISTRESS 445 D O'Brien 8-9 ... G Bardwell 9
7 5040 MISS SCOOTER 13J M Muggeridge 8-9 ... R Painter 1
8 0603 SATWA BOULEVARD 7 M Channon 8-9 ... A Culhane 3
9 0 WICHITA 140 B Gubby 8-9 ... J Quinn 8

4-5 Ritual, 4-1 Satwa Boulevard, 11-2 Lorenzo, 12-1 Rushed, 14-1 others.

12.40 LINGFIELD LOYALTY CARDS SELLING STAKES
(Div I: £1,901: 1m 2f) (14)

1 1205 I CAN'T REMEMBER 34 (D,F,S) M Pipe 4-9-9 G Faulkner (3) 7
2 0060 SHARBADARID 10 (B,C) S Dow 4-9-9 ... P Doe (5) 3
3 8500 EASTLEIGH 6 (C,S) R Hollinshead 9-9-4 Lisa Watson (7) 13
4 5003 IKRAM BOY 6 A Bailey 4-9-4 ... J Bosley (7) 8
5 0006 LANCASHIRE LEGEND 11 N Littmoden 5-9-4 P Roberts (3) 12
6 8000 MACARI 34 B Baugh 4-9-4 ... A Culhane 14
7 0000 MADAME CHINNERY 22 (B,G) C Weedon 4-9-4 ... J Tate 1
8 2303 PEGASUS BAY 11 (V,C,D,F) D Cantillon 7-9-4 ... G Carter 10
9 0060 SAND CAY 10 R O'Sullivan 4-9-4 ... S Whitworth 9
10 0000 FALKENBERG 66J B Pearce 3-9-0 ... P Doe (5) 5
11 0/0- KOORDINAITE 15J R Baker 4-8-13 ... V Slattery 6
12 0000 HOPPIT 86 P Howling 3-8-9 ... J Quinn 4
13 2505 LADY EIL 83J B Smart 3-8-9 ... R Perham 11
14 0040 MISMEWMEW 41 L A Dace 3-8-9 ... D Sweeney 2

9-4 I Can't Remember, 7-2 Pegasus Bay, 6-1 Sharbadarid, 7-1 Ikram Boy, 8-1 others.

1.10 LINGFIELD LOYALTY CARDS SELLING STAKES
(Div II: £1,901: 1m 2f) (13)

1 1100 HARPOON LOUIE 159 (BF,C,F,G) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 8-9-9 ... M Servanczix 8
2 0000 WAIKIKI BEACH 6 (B,CD,F,G) G L Moore 7-9-9 Candy Morris 11
3 4000 DIONYS 34 C Dondi (Bel) 4-9-4 ... A Clark 6
4 0000 MERCURY 7 B Baugh 5-9-4 ... P Roberts (3) 4
5 0000 NAUPLIE 10 (B) J Bridger 4-9-4 ... G Bardwell 3
6 0053 PRESENT SITUATION 53 Lord Huntingdon 7-9-4 D McKeown 13
7 0-30 RISCATTO 13 (D,F) W Muir 4-9-4 ... T Sprake 12
8 7200 RODERICK HUDSON 88 (F) J R Poulton 6-9-4 ... R Hughes 7
9 0000 CATFOOT LANE 37 (F) W G M Turner 3-9-0 ... M Tebbutt 2
10 6500 LAST KNIGHT 17J D Arbuthnot 3-9-0 ... R Price 5
11 -000 TAEL OF SILVER 3 (F,G) A Bailey 6-8-13 ... F Norton 1
12 -004 CAMPARI 32 (BF) J Pearce 3-8-9 ... G Bardwell 10
13 0240 SANTARENE 38 P Howling 3-8-9 ... J Quinn 9

11-4 Present Situation, 11-2 Waikiki Beach, 6-1 Roderick Hudson, 7-1 others.

1.40 ANTIQUE FAIRS AT LINGFIELD NOVICE STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,775: 7f) (7)

1 0021 DAUNTED 15 (B,C) G L Moore 9-4 ... M Wigham 3
2 1050 DIAMOND GEEZER 34 (S) R Hannon 9-2 ... P Dobbs (7) 2
3 01 TAPAGE 3 (CD) W Muir 9-0 ... R Hughes 4
4 6231 CANTGETYOURBREATH 7 (B) B Meehan 8-12 ... M Tebbutt 1
5 2301 BLASTONBURY 10 (CD) P Howling 8-12 ... J Quinn 7
6 642 TIGER SHARK 13 Lord Huntingdon 8-12 ... D McKeown 5
7 WESTERN COMMAND M Prescott 8-12 ... C Nutter 6

11-4 Tapage, 7-2 Tiger Shark, 4-1 Cantgetyourbreath, Western Command, 6-1 others.

2.10 WINTER WARMER CLUB NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £2,939: 7f) (15)

1 1002 ACHILLES STAR 10 (G,S) K Burke 9-7 ... J P Spencer (3) 14
2 0621 VINTAGE PRIDE 22 (B,S) R Hannon 9-2 ... R Hughes 12
3 3402 BUONA SERA 3 W Muir 8-12 ... T Sprake 13
4 0610 NOZOMI 41 P Makin 8-11 ... A Clark 1
5 054 VIOLET 36 Lord Huntingdon 8-9 ... D McKeown 15
6 0010 SWEET COMPLIANCE 73 (B,D,S) P Shakespeare 8-8 C Rutter 5
7 5300 WEET U THERE 21 R Hollinshead 8-5 ... A Culhane 9
8 0600 GOLD COAST 118 S Dow 8-1 ... P Doe (5) 10
9 000 BARON DE PICHON 36 N Littmoden 7-11 ... J Quinn 7
10 4064 ASCARI 14 P Harris 7-10 ... G Bardwell 11
11 0000 DUCHESS OF FERRARA 56 A McNae 7-10 ... J Lowe 2
12 3224 DREAM ON ME 36 (BF) G L Moore 7-10 ... F Norton 8
13 4060 FANETTA 67 M Tompkins 7-10 ... N Carlisle 6
14 0400 BLUE PERU 11 B Smart 7-10 ... P Fessey 4
15 4066 MAGIQUE ETOILE 15 (V) M Muggeridge 7-10 ... J Tate 3

7-2 Achilles Star, 9-2 Vintage Pride, 7-1 Violet, 8-1 Dream On Me, 10-1 Buona Sera, Sweet Compliance, 12-1 Nozomi, Ascari, 14-1 others.

2.40 SOUTHRIVER TOOLS & FIXINGS 15TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP
(£3,583: 6f) (14)

1 6000 RUZEN 111 (D,G,S) B Palling 3-9-12 ... T Sprake 8
2 4002 ROBO MAGIC 2 (CD,F) L Montague Hall 6-9-11 ... J Tate 1
3 1021 SIHAFI 3 (CD,F,G) D Nicholls 5-9-9 ... Alex Greaves 10
4 0021 SOAKED 3 (C,D,F,G) D Chapman 5-9-6 (7ex) ... A Culhane 2
5 4000 BLUE KITE 11 (V) N Littmoden 3-9-4 ... P Roberts (3) 11
6 4300 RIFFI 41 (C,D,F,G) R Ingram 5-9-4 ... A Clark 7
7 0100 THATS LIFE 88 (D,F) T Mills 3-9-1 ... L Carter 3
8 0062 BUTRINTO 15 (D,F) J Pearce 4-8-13 ... M Wigham 5
9 6001 FACILE TIGRE 22 (D,F,S) S Dow 3-8-12 ... P Doe (5) 4
10 0001 AL MABROOK 15 (CD) K Mahdi 3-8-12 ... J Quinn 14
11 2421 ELLWAY PRINCE 15 (V,CD) Mrs N Macauley 3-8-11 ... D McKeown 12
12 3010 MISS HIT 21 (G) Miss G Kelleway 3-8-8 ... S Whitworth 13
13 0126 HALF TONE 3 (B,C,F,G,S) R Flower 6-8-6 ... F Norton 9
14 0000 DOMULLA 38 (D,F,G,S) T D McCarthy 8-8-6 ... S Carson (7) 6

5-1 Soaked, 11-2 Riffi, 6-1 Sihafi, 7-1 Al Mabrook, 8-1 Facile Tigre, Ellway Prince, 12-1 Robo Magic, Butrinto, Miss Hit, 14-1 others.

3.10 CONFERENCE STAGING MAIDEN STAKES
(Div II: 3-Y-O: £2,749: 1m) (8)

1 2-35 BAAJIL 48 (BF) D Cosgrove 9-0 ... A McGlone 6
2 0000 GALLANT FELLOW 3 J Bridger 9-0 ... G Bardwell 1
3 6 MAWKAB 3 (V) Miss G Kelleway 9-0 ... S Whitworth 5
4 -006 PIPPAS PRIDE 31 M Fetherston-Godley 9-0 ... F Norton 8
5 605 RAINSTORM 52 C Dwyer 9-0 ... G Carter 4
6 0302 TUMBLEWEED HERO 36 (B,BF) B Meehan 9-0 ... M Tebbutt 2
7 0525 DANCING WOLF 23 A McNae 8-9 ... T Sprake 7
8 00 PAPILLON SAUVAGE 13 W Muir 8-9 ... J P Spencer (3) 3

11-8 Tumbleweed Hero, 2-1 Dancing Wolf, 9-2 Baajil, 8-1 Mawkab, 16-1 Gallant Fellow, Pippas Pride, Rainstorm, 33-1 Papillon Sauvage.

3.40 BUY LINGFIELD POUNDS FOR CHRISTMAS APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£1,946: 1m 4f) (16)

1 0210 STATAJACK 38 (B,C,D,F,G,S) D Elsworth 10-10-0 ... K Parsons (7) 3
2 504- SLIP JIG 482 (BF,CD,S) K Burke 5-9-12 ... P Goode 9
3 2340 MANNEQUIN 55 B Hills 3-8-11 ... K Skad 16
4 /00/ FRASER CAREY 18J (B,F,G) J O'Shea 6-9-7 ... F Tynan (5) 12
5 0240 WINNING SAINT 33 (V) M Tompkins 3-9-7 ... R Smith 13
6 4040 WILD CANARY 15 (E) D Morris 3-9-3 ... P Dobbs 10
7 0-60 SCARLET CRESCENT 8J M Usher 4-9-2 ... W Hutchinson (5) 14
8 0003 GINZBOURG 24J (S) R O'Sullivan 4-9-0 ... S Carson 7
9 0262 WAASEF 2 Miss G Kelleway 5-8-11 ... P Fredericks 11
10 3142 MEMORY'S MUSIC 7J (CD) M Madgwick 6-8-6 ... A Eddery 8
11 0001 KATIE'S CRACKER 37 (S) M Quinn 3-8-3 ... Emily Joyce (5) 1
12 0003 PRIX DE CLERMONT 7 (B,D) G L Moore 4-3-1 ... J Bosley (5) 15
13 5036 HIGH ON LIFE 10 (B) J Akehurst 4-8-1 ... P Fitzsimons (3) 4
14 0000 GARVER DOONE 2 (B) L A Dace 3-8-0 ... C Carver 2
15 -050 ARGUMENTATIVE 58 T D McCarthy 3-7-13 ... B Hannon (3) 5
16 0000 SAPPHIRE SON 32 (F,G) P Clarke 6-7-10 ... S Righton 6

9-2 Mannequin, 6-1 Statajack, 13-2 Waasef, 7-1 Katie's Cracker, 8-1 Memory's Music, High On Life, 10-1 Prix De Clermont, 12-1 others.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Uttoxeter

Going: good to soft, becoming soft

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, **Sporadic Missile** (A Maguire, 5-1); 2, Dunston Bill (25-1); 3, Westerton (12-1). Gold Ment 5-2 fav. 16 ran. NR Jungli, Swan Island. 1½l, 14l. G Houngan. Tote: £5.70; £2.40, £11.50, £2.80. DF £226.10. CSF £119.55.

1.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Carlingford Gale** (R Thornton, 3-1); 2, Tejano Gold (4-1); 3, Come On Penny (15-8 fav). 5 ran. 19l, 13l. T George. Tote: £4.80; £1.70, £1.70. DF £7.60. CSF £13.60.

1.45 (2m hdle) 1, **Barton Scamp** (Edgar Byrne, 11-1); 2, Oakbury (8-1); 3, Lofty Deed (33-1). Stretching (4th) 3-2 fav. 14 ran. 3½l, 2½l. D Williams. Tote: £11.70; £2.40, £3.10, £9.10. DF £34.20. CSF £91.26. Tricast £2,588.91.

2.15 (2m ch) 1, **Kadou Nonantais** (J A McCarthy, 2-9 fav); 2, Verywell (25-1); 3, Bigsound (9-2). 4 ran. 20l, 29l. O Sherwood. Tote: £1.30. DF: £4.10. CSF £5.04.

2.45 (2m hdle) 1, **Croker** (A Maguire, 11-10 fav); 2, Legend of Love (10-1); 3, Sentry Duty (25-1). 11 ran. 5l, 1l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.90; £1.30, £2.20, £3.60. DF £5.60. CSF £11.53.

3.15 (2m 7f ch) 1, **Betty's Boy** (N Williamson, 8-1); 2, Organ Recital (11-4 fav); 3, Burnt Imp (11-2). 9 ran. 1½l, 2½l. K Bailey. Tote: £9.90; £2.10, £1.40, £1.70. DF £16.30. Trifecta £268.80. CSF £29.80. Tricast £124.09.

3.45 (2m hdle) 1, **Lord Richfield** (X Aizpuru, 14-1); 2, Samanid (6-1); 3, Country Orchid (11-2). Saint Ciel 5-1 fav. 11 ran. NR Stage Pass. ¾l, ¾l. S Brookshaw. Tote £20.60; £4.80, £2.60, £2.80. DF £59.80. CSF £90.29. Tricast £484.00.

Placepot: £249.30. Quadpot: £23.30.

Taunton

Going: good

1.25 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Mersey Beat** (M Batchelor, 3-1); 2, Davoski (5-2 fav); 3, Faru (8-1). 13 ran. ¾l, 4l. G L Moore. Tote: £4.60; £1.50, £1.40, £2.30. DF £2.80. CSF £9.75.

1.55 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **The Robe** (W Marston, 6-1); 2, Ballykissann (16-1); 3, Hi Rudolf (16-1). Dancing Al 9-4 fav. 11 ran. 12l, 1½l. A Carroll. Tote: £5.70; £1.90, £3.30, £2.60. DF £19.80. CSF £82.70.

2.25 (2m 3f ch) 1, **Country Beau** (M A Fitzgerald, 6-4 fav); 2, Connaught Cracker (5-2); 3, Nahrawali (9-4). 10 ran. 16l, 8l. J King. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.10, £1.70. DF £3.30. CSF £5.23.

2.55 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Alhosaam** (R Johnson, 3-1 fav); 2, Laurel Seeker (100-30); 3, Miracle Kid (8-1). 12 ran. NR Prince of India, Sweet Symphony. 8l, 1½l. G L Moore. Tote: £3.50; £1.90, £1.30, £2.00. DF £4.70. CSF £12.28.

3.25 (3m ch) 1, **Jefferies** (M A Fitzgerald, 6-4 fav); 2, Spring Gale (7-1); 3, Qualitair Memory (40-1). 10 ran. NR Oliver Duckett. 5l, 3l. J Old. Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £1.90, £3.70. DF £9.60. CSF: £12.03. Tricast £275.99.

3.55 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Harry** (R Dunwoody, 6-4 fav); 2, Paulton (12-1); 3, Centowoody (12-1). 10 ran. 5l, ¾l. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.80; £1.80, £1.50, £2.80. DF £15.30. CSF £16.89. Tricast £129.84.

Jackpot: £5,443.90.

Placepot: £81.00. Quadpot: £6.00.

Carlisle

Going: heavy

1.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Bawara** (R Supple, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, My Saltarello (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Western Chief (6-1). 10 ran. NR: Onel Lad. 3l, 9l. L Lungo. Tote: £3.60; £1.10, £1.90, £1.90. DF £8.80. CSF £15.49. Tricast £65.54.

1.35 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Scotia Nostra** (R McGrath, 4-5 fav); 2, Menshaar (4-1); 3, Bulls Boy (8-1). 7 ran. 1½l, 30l. J O'Neill. Tote: £2.00; £2.00, £1.70. DF: £2.90. CSF £3.65.

2.05 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Owtabeatim** (B Harding, 12-1); 2, Gus Berry (12-1); 3, Flighty Leader (10-1). Mister Sandrovitch 4-1 fav. 15 ran. NR Lenacor Lane. 7l, 5l. R Woodhouse. Tote: £16.90; £4.90, £5.70, £2.20. DF £168.90. CSF £134.47.

2.35 (3m 2f ch) 1, **Blue Irish** (L Wyer, 13-8 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Peter (7-1); 3, Than Thai (12-1). 5 ran. 6l, 2½l. Mrs S Bramall. Tote: £2.50; £1.80, £2.30. DF: £6.20. CSF £11.08.

3.05 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Mary's Feelings** (B Harding, 5-1); 2, Fair And Fancy (7-2 fav); 3, My Shenandoah (4-1). 8 ran. 5l, hd. M Hammond. Tote: £5.40; £2.70, £1.90. DF: £5.30. CSF: £18.17.

3.35 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, **Boston Man** (Mr E Babington, 11-2); 2, Hagg's Way (20-1); 3, Wicklow Way (7-2). Hurst Flyer (4th) 3-1 fav. 10 ran. 27l, 2½l. R Woodhouse. Tote: £12.70; £4.20, £4.80, £1.70. DF £170.60. CSF £97.45. Tricast: £412.21.

Placepot: £80.20.
Quadpot: £59.00.

NEWBURY

THUNDERER
1.00 Door To Door
1.30 Zander
2.00 Mr Strong Gale
2.30 Virtuoso
3.00 SHADIANN (nap)
3.30 Mothers Help

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.30 SERENUS.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.00 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOTE PLACEPOT NOVICES HURDLE
(£4,033: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

101 F1-12R MIGHTY PHANTOM 13 (F) (Torrance Racing) R Phillips 5-11-5 ... J Osborne 118
102 4F1- DALCASSIAN KING 257P (D,S) (Lord MacLaurin) N Henderson 5-11-0 M A Fitzgerald –
103 60-32 DOOR TO DOOR 12 (Uplands Bloodstock) S Sherwood 6-11-0 ... G Bradley 88
104 PPP44- EXACT 194 (G,S) (Ford Farm Racing) D Nicholson 6-11-0 ... J Eddery (7) –
105 2 HOT TO TROT 31 (Bumper Pack) K Bailey 5-11-0 ... N Williamson 93
106 200-33 JABIRU 20 (Mrs R Stan) P Hobbs 5-11-0 ... R Dunwoody 54
107 10620- LUGGSY 254 (G) (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0 ... C Llewellyn –
108 5/0 MISTER RIVER 13 (Mrs A Shaw) D Elsworth 7-11-0 ... P Holley –
109 0/0 PIRATE MINSTREL 17 (Mrs P Hunt) R Crompton 6-11-0 ... B Powell –

BETTING: 7-4 Door To Door, 7-2 Hot To Trot, 6-1 Mighty Phantom, Dalcassian King, 10-1 Jabiru, Luggsy, 12-1 Exact, 16-1 others.

1997: JET BOYS 7-11-0 A P McCoy (13-8 fav) Mrs J Pitman 8 ran

FORM FOCUS: Mighty Phantom refused to race in novice handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good to soft), previously 4l 2nd of 5 to Fashwan in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm). Door To Door 2l 2nd of 14 to Arctic Camper in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good), previously 8l 3rd of 15 to Santabless in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Jabiru 33l 3rd of 10 to King's Road in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft), previously 22l 3rd of 9 to Raleigh Native in novice hurdle at Worcester (3m 2f, good). Luggsy 33l 16th of 25 to Alexander Banquet in national hunt flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good), previously 17l 2nd of 13 to Frantic Tan in national hunt flat race at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Mister River 65l 10th of 14 to Dancing Lord in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft), previously 14l 5th of 14 to Noisy Miner in national hunt flat race at Wincanton (2m, good to firm).

DOOR TO DOOR ran well in a hot contest latest and should do even better over this longer trip

1.30 OXFORDSHIRE NOVICES CHASE
(£4,796: 3m) (4 runners)

201 0-1111 VILLAGE KING 31 (F,G,S) (Capt E Edwards-Heathcote) P Hobbs 5-11-10 R Dunwoody 127
202 33/0/1 IVY BOY 11 (S) (Gasolucs Partnership) C Mann 8-11-9 ... Mr N Fehily (7) 99
203 66368- FULL OF VODKA 202 (P Vogt) K Bailey 6-11-5 ... N Williamson –
204 2320-2 ZANDER 9 (G) (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-5 ... C Llewellyn 17

BETTING: 4-5 Village King, 5-2 Zander, 9-2 Ivy Boy, 12-1 Full Of Vodka.

1997: STRONG CHAIRMAN 6-11-3 T J Murphy (11-10 fav) P Nicholls 3 ran

FORM FOCUS: Village King beat River Dawn ½l in 10-runner novice handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good), previously beat Kimanicky 3½l in 5-runner novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm). Ivy Boy beat Reflex Courier 14l in 10-runner maiden chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, good to soft). Full Of Vodka brought down in handicap hurdle at Fairyhouse (3m, good to soft), previously 20l 6th of 28 to Nuzum Road Makers in maiden hurdle at Fairyhouse (2m 6f, good to soft). Zander 5l 2nd of 8 to Bramshaw Wood in novice chase at Kempton (3m, good to soft).

VILLAGE KING is progressing nicely and may extend his winning sequence at the expense of Zander

2.00 JACKY UPTON HANDICAP CHASE
(£7,225: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

301 34P-4F SENOR EL BETRUTTI 13 (C,D,F,G,S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 9-12-0 ... G Bradley 155
302 F1P33- CALLISOE BAY 244 (CD,F,G,S) (R Waters) O Sherwood 9-10-8 ... J Osborne 165
303 12112- STORMY PASSAGE 233 (BF,D,F,S) (P Luff) P Hobbs 8-10-6 ... A Thornton 150
304 2PPR1- COLONEL IN CHIEF 224 (D,G,S) (R Ogden) M Todhunter 8-10-3 ... R Dunwoody 154
305 6215-1 JIBBER THE KIBBER 20 (D,G,S) (J Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-3 ... D Leahy 155
306 -46P40 STATELY HOME 44 (BF,D,F,G) (P Bowen) P Bowen 7-10-3 ... N Williamson 177
307 112-0U PHILIP'S WOODY 13 (D,F,G,S) (B Wilsdon) N Henderson 10-10-0 . M A Fitzgerald 158
308 112-11 MR STRONG GALE 9 (B,D,F,G,S) (T Chappell) P Nicholls 7-10-0 (6ex) . T J Murphy 153

Long handicap: Mr Strong Gale 9-12

BETTING: 11-4 Mr Strong Gale, 4-1 Colonel In Chief, 5-1 Jibber The Kibber, 6-1 Senor El Betrutti, 7-1 Callisoe Bay, Stately Home, 8-1 Stormy Passage, 20-1 Philip's Woody

1997: CALLISOE BAY 8-10-0 J A McCarthy (9-4) O Sherwood 4 ran

FORM FOCUS: Senor El Betrutti fell in handicap chase grade 3 at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with Philip's Woody (2lb better off) unseated rider, previously 30l 4th of 7 to Super Tactics in grade 2 handicap chase at Wincanton (2m5f, good). Callisoe Bay beaten a distance 3rd of 4 to Macgeorge in handicap chase at Newbury (3m, good to soft), previously beaten a distance 3rd of 7 to Super Tactics in handicap chase grade 3 at Kempton (3m, good to firm) with Jibber The Kibber (9lb worse off) beaten a distance 5th. Stormy Passage 4l 2nd of 3 to The Land Agent in novice chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft), previously beat Sir Dante 5l in 4-runner novice chase grade 2 at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) with Mr Strong Gale (6lb better off) 34l 3rd. Colonel In Chief beat Corston Joker 3½l in 8-runner handicap chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good). Jibber The Kibber beat Flaming Miracle ¾l in 5-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, soft). Stately Home 27l 7th of 9 to Forestal in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). Mr Strong Gale beat Camitrov 4l in 5-runner handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft), previously beat Sounds Like Fun 1½l in 5-runner handicap chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good)

STORMY PASSAGE took well to chasing last season and remains open to further improvement

2.30 PLACEPOT GROWING WITH TOTE DIRECT HANDICAP HURDLE [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE]
(£5,586: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

401 -31110 DANEGOLD 12 (D,F,G,S) (Circular Distributors Ltd) M Channon 6-12-0 ... D Byrne 110
402 131-P5 SOUND APPEAL 17 (D,G) (R & J Fidler) G McCourt 4-11-9 ... A Thornton 119
403 115-2F VIRTUOSO 12 (D,G) (Mrs M Devine) C Mann 4-11-9 ... R Dunwoody 126
404 1-2225 POLAR PROSPECT 12 (D,S) (Mr & Mrs D Last & B Yates) P Hobbs 5-11-8 . G Tormey 116
405 14304- SERENUS 233 (D,G,S) (W, M & Mrs E Robins) N Henderson 5-11-7 . M A Fitzgerald 128
406 23/11- TIUTCHEV 378 (D,G) (Lars Pokar Partnership) D Nicholson 5-10-11 ... A Maguire –
407 21610- LINE OF CONQUEST 253 (D,G,S) (Miss C James) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-11 B Powell 111
408 4000-1 BOLD GAIT 17 (CD,S) (Mrs I Phillips) J Fanshawe 7-10-6 ... J Osborne 102
409 /P60-4 DANCING PADDY 13 (CD,F,G,S) K Cunningham-Brown 10-10-5 ... J R Kavanagh 94
410 423/03 SHOOFK 13 (S) (S Devine) S Dow 7-10-3 ... C Llewellyn 106

BETTING: 7-4 Bold Gait, 5-1 Serenus, 7-1 Polar Prospect, Virtuoso, Tiutchev, 8-1 Line Of Conquest, 12-1 Danegold, 16-1 Shoofk, 20-1 Sound Appeal, 25-1 Dancing Paddy.

1997: STORM/FAIRWEATHER 5-10-9 M A Fitzgerald (3-1 jt fav) N Henderson 7 ran

FORM FOCUS: Sound Appeal 30l last of 5 to Zafarabad in hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). Polar Prospect 13l 5th of 16 to Grey Shot in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good) with Danegold (1lb worse off) 27l 8th and Virtuoso (1lb worse off) fell. Serenus 20l 4th of 6 to Rubhahunish in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to soft) with Dancing Paddy (15lb better off) 53l last, previously 19l 12th of 15 to Blowing Wind in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft). Tiutchev beat Country Minstrel 3l in 14-runner novice handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good); previously beat It's Wallace 15l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good). Line Of Conquest 32l 17th of 27 to Blowing Wind in handicap hurdle grade 3 at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good), previously beat Nishamira 4l in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, good). Bold Gait beat Stone Ridge 7l in 7-runner novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). Shoofk 15l 3rd of 9 to Dragon King in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft) with Dancing Paddy (3lb better off) 25l 4th.

BOLD GAIT scored with any amount in hand on his reappearance and promises to take the beating

3.00 NEWBURY SHOPPING ARCADE CONDITIONAL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,566: 2m 5f) (11 runners)

501 3-2121 TAUFAN BOY 7 (S) (Suprema Team) G Balding 5-12-2 (6ex) ... F Keniry (6) 113
502 /3203- GONE FOR A BURTON 50F (H Carrington) P Makin 8-11-6 ... J Tizzard 97
503 P11-33 BRAMBLEHILL DUKE 27 (F,G,S) (Faucets) Miss V Williams 6-11-4 ... S Kelly (3) 109
504 331-40 FILSCOT 20 (F) (P Morgan) C Morlock 6-10-10 ... S Durack 109
505 0F5-01 SHADIANN 9 (G) (M Blackburn & J Brown) P Murphy 4-10-8 (6ex) ... L Aspell 103
506 PFR- REWARD 239 (A Still) C Mann 4-10-3 ... J Magee (3) –
507 033/ EZANAK 606 (West Lockinge Partnership) Miss H Knight 5-10-0 ... L Cummins –
508 UP-455 LAUGHING FONTAINE 20 (F) (Racing Club KCB) K Bailey 8-10-0 ... E Byrne (6) 55
509 P452-2 STRAY HARMONY 11 (G) (Winwood Connell) R Smith 8-10-0 ... M Batchelor 64
510 03-500 LIME STREET BLUES 7 (Blues Partnership) T Keddy 7-10-0 ... Michael Brennan 81
511 206040 SOVEREIGN 9 (J Panvert) J Panvert 4-10-0 ... D Creech (5) 94

Long handicap: Laughing Fontaine 9-10, Stray Harmony 9-4, Lime Street Blues 8-11, Sovereign 8-8

BETTING: 7-2 Shadiann, 4-1 Taufan Boy, 5-1 Gone For A Burton, 13-2 Bramblehill Duke, 7-1 Filscot, Stray Harmony, 12-1 Ezanak, Laughing Fontaine, 20-1 others.

1997: WELSH SILK 5-10-7 Sophie Mitchell (11-4) D Gandolfo 10 ran

FORM FOCUS: Taufan Boy beat Estate Agent 7l in 8-runner conditional novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good to soft), previously 2l 2nd of 8 to Falmouth Bay in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to soft). Gone For A Burton 5l 3rd of 9 to No Pattern in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to firm). Bramblehill Duke 25l 3rd of 7 to Fairfields Prince in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good). Shadiann beat Windy Valley 9l in 14-runner novice handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good). Ezanak 2½l 3rd of 4 to Hayaain in 4yo novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Laughing Fontaine 25l 5th of 11 to Mysoleis in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good) with Filscot (3lb better off) 40l 7th. Stray Harmony 11l 2nd of 15 to Dutch Dyane in mares handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft)

TAUFAN BOY ran out a decisive winner at Ascot a week ago and is fancied to defy a penalty

3.30 FRESHMANS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £4,003: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

601 0-180 BOLD KING 13 (S) (J Sullivan) Mrs L Jewell 11-3 ... T Peoples (7) 40
602 2122 OUT'N'ABOUT 20 (D,F) (E Gutner & M Krysztofiak) P Nicholls 11-3 ... J Tizzard 102
603 03P-11 TRALUIDE 88 (F,G) (T Conningham) M Pipe 11-3 ... T J Murphy 81
604 APPYABO 32F (M Quinn) M Quinn 10-12 ... L Harvey –
605 0 BROOKSIE 13 (R Carson) R Carson 10-12 ... M Ahern –
606 GENIUS 58F (Normandy Developments (London)) S Dow 10-12 ... M A Fitzgerald –
607 0 KING PRIAM 25F (B,BF) (I Puddle) M Polglase 10-12 ... J R Kavanagh –
608 1 MOTHERS HELP 13 (D,S) (Berkshire Components) D Williams 10-12 R Dunwoody 73
609 MUFEED 404F (Mrs Merrick Francis III) M Francis 10-12 ... M Richards –
610 PENDOGGETT (Mrs M Slade) D Elsworth 10-12 ... G Bradley –
611 REDEMPTION (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 10-12 ... C Llewellyn –
612 62 SHERGANZAR 17 (B) (A Solomon) O Sherwood 10-12 ... J Osborne 67
613 TABERNACLE 150F (M Myers) C Mann 10-12 ... J Magee –
614 TOMMY CARSON 35F (DGH Partnership) D Elsworth 10-12 ... P Holley –

BETTING: 5-2 Sherganzar, 3-1 Traluide, 4-1 Out'N'About, 7-1 Mothers Help, 10-1 King Priam, Redemption, 20-1 Bold King, Pendoggett, Tommy Carson, 25-1 others.

1997: RAINWATCH 10-12 A P McCoy (2-5 fav) M Pipe 14 ran

FORM FOCUS: Out'N'About 4l 2nd of 4 to Navarre Samson in 3yo novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good), previously 9l 2nd of 11 to Dangerus Precedent in 3yo novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to soft) with Sherganzar (1lb better off) 62l 8th. Traluide beat Expresso 11 in 7-runner 3yo novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, firm), previously beat Surabaya 2l in 16-runner claiming hurdle at Auteuil (1m 7f, good). Mothers Help beat Wave Rock 6l in 18-runner 3yo novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft) with Bold King (7lb better off) 27l 7th and Brooksie (5lb better off) 85l 12th. Sherganzar 10l 2nd of 7 to Katarino in 3yo novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). Tommy Carson signs of ability on Flat, finishing under 2l 3rd of 12 to Shamawan in 1m2f maiden at Newbury (heavy) in October

SHERGANZAR caught a tartar here on his last outing and looks up to this task

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
O Sherwood	17	59	28.8	J Osborne	37	115	32.2
D Nicholson	25	107	23.4	T J Murphy	5	18	27.8
M Pipe	16	81	19.8	A Maguire	18	91	19.8
K Bailey	10	57	17.5	A Thornton	6	32	18.8
N Henderson	16	98	16.3	R Dunwoody	19	111	17.1
D Elsworth	6	37	16.2	P Holley	8	59	13.6
P Nicholls	6	42	14.3	G Tormey	3	22	13.6
Mrs J Pitman	8	59	13.6	M Fitzgerald	17	136	12.5
N Twiston-Davies	12	113	10.6	N Williamson	10	84	11.9
P Hobbs	8	78	10.3	C Llewellyn	13	115	11.3

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield: 12.10 Lorenzo. 12.40 Pegasus Bay, Madame Chinnery. 1.10 Waikiki Beach, Nauplie. 3.10 Tumbleweed Hero. 3.40 Winning Saint. **Newbury:** 3.30 King Priam.

SPECIALISTS

LINGFIELD PARK: Trainers: M Prescott, 24 winners from 112 runners, 21.4%; A Vanderhaeghen, 3 from 14, 21.4%; Lord Huntingdon, 47 from 236, 19.9%; D Nicholls, 13 from 66, 19.7%; P Harris, 15 from 88, 17.0%; N Littmoden, 10 from 62, 16.1%; Miss G Kelleway, 40 from 262, 15.3%. **Jockeys:** M Servranckx, 3 winners from 11 rides, 27.3%; P Dobbs, 7 from 27, 25.9%; L Carter, 3 from 15, 20.0%; P Roberts, 9 from 47, 19.1%; Alex Greaves, 8 from 42, 19.0%; D McKeown, 25 from 154, 16.2%; S Whitworth, 52 from 372, 14.0%; G Carter, 30 from 226, 13.3%.

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CRICKET

West Indies dig deep after initial struggle

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN JOHANNESBURG

THE WANDERERS (first day of five; West Indies won toss): West Indies have scored 249 for seven wickets against South Africa



Chanderpaul: gritty

WEST INDIES were indebted to an innings of typical grit and resolve from Shivnarine Chanderpaul to deflect attention once again from matters off the field, after a rampant Shaun Pollock had threatened to make their first day of Test cricket in South Africa one that they would wish to forget.

A day of immense historical importance at The Wanderers could scarcely have begun on a less auspicious note. First, Pat Rousseau, president of the West Indies Cricket Board, recounted the events of two days ago when, with his wife and a Jamaican journalist, he was robbed at gunpoint as he visited a cricket ground in Soweto. Shortly afterwards came a statement by Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, expressing his disappointment that "no players of colour had been selected to represent South Africa".

The West Indies sprung a surprise by naming Rawl Lewis, the leg spinner, in their side. Lewis had arrived in Johannesburg as a replacement for the injured Dinanath Ramnarine at 7.30 yesterday morning, somewhat less than fresh after an overnight flight from Bombay, where he he had been touring with the A team.

By winning the toss, Brian Lara was able to elect to bat first, allowing Lewis time to rest. There is nothing restful, however, in an opening partnership between Clayton Lambert and Philo Wallace. Within eight overs and after a flurry of drives and pulls, both batsmen had been dismissed by Pollock. Lambert aimed a cavalier swipe and edged behind; Wallace lost his off stump prodding forward.



Lara, the West Indies captain, is comprehensively bowled by Pollock after winning the toss and electing to bat

Lara briefly suggested the occasion would be marked by an innings of majesty. Before he had time to settle, however, he was bowled by Pollock off an inside edge, tentatively pushing forward.

Had Pollock, who boasted figures of three for 14 at this stage, soon afterwards been able to take a difficult caught-and-bowled chance off Carl Hooperbefore he had scored, there is every chance that West Indies' batting would have capitulated.

The chance went to ground and, in the next 31 overs, Hooper, batting for most of the time with a runner after damaging a groin when he slipped playing forward defensively to Kallis, and Chanderpaul added 91 runs.

The secret to Chanderpaul's success is a simple one. He is West Indies' most adhesive batsman and plays strictly within his limitations. When the ball was drifting marginally down the leg side, he would step across and help it on its way to fine leg. When the bowlers overpitched, he opted to drive to the off-side boundary. A square-driven four off Allan Donald took him to his sixteenth Test half-century in 124 balls.

By that stage, though, Hooper had departed, well caught at slip by Cullinan off Donald, and Chanderpaul went into his shell. His next 86 balls brought him only 24 runs before, playing back, he was leg-before to Donald.

Hooper's willingness to take on Donald was entertainment in itself and, four times in two overs, he dispatched him to the boundary. A lazy stroke, though, cost him his wicket.

Stuart Williams, originally chosen in the West Indies squad as the third opener, batted resourcefully in scoring 35 at No 6 before becoming David Terbrugge's first Test victim, and the new ball accounted for Ridley Jacobs, caught at mid-wicket pulling at Kallis, but not before he and Nixon McLean had added 37. Lewis kept McLean company to the close as West Indies, who mostly underperformed, began to struggle free.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE WANDERERS

WEST INDIES: First Innings

C B Lambert c Boucher b Pollock	8
P A Wallace b Pollock	16
*B C Lara b Pollock	11
S Chanderpaul lbw b Donald	74
C L Hooper c Cullinan b Donald	44
S C Williams c Cronje b Terbrugge	35
†R D Jacobs c Cronje b Kallis	14
N A M McLean not out	23
R N Lewis not out	11
Extras (lb 6, w 2, nb 5)	13
Total (7 wkts)	**249**

C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-24, 3-41, 4-132, 5-177, 6-198, 7-235.

BOWLING: Donald 20-3-83-2; Pollock 20-4-51-3; Kallis 15-5-37-1; Terbrugge 16-5-32-1; Cronje 1-0-3-0; Symcox 18-4-37-0.

SOUTH AFRICA: G Kirsten, A M Bacher, J H Kallis, D J Cullinan, *†W J Cronje, J N Rhodes, S M Pollock, †M V Boucher, P L Symcox, A A Donald, D J Terbrugge.

Umpires: C J Mitchley (South Africa) and D R Shepherd (England).

Brotherly love lost in Kentish towns

THE Band of Brothers, the wandering club that has had a considerable influence over decision-making within Kent cricket, has been cited by a long-serving former player as responsible for the dismissal of Steve Marsh from the captaincy last month (Ivo Tennant writes). Bob Wilson has resigned from the cricket committee in protest.

The Band of Brothers was revived by Lord Harris in 1880 as a nursery of the county's amateur cricket. It elects prominent Men of Kent and Kentish Men on a social as well as a cricketing basis and is regarded with suspicion by some of the players.

The Kent cricket committee includes prominent players such as Derek Underwood, who was abroad when the decision to dismiss Marsh was taken, and Mike Denness, who is thought to have had his reservations over it. The appointment of Matthew Fleming as captain for 1999 was made by the general committee after consultations with the cricket committee, chaired by Derek Ufton.

Wilson, who played for Kent in the 1950s and 1960s, did not attend the meeting of the cricket committee on account of being Marsh's father-in-law. He has resigned, criticising what he perceived to be outside pressure.

David Kemp, the chairman of Kent, said: "To suggest the Band of Brothers is behind this change and that there is a split is ludicrous.Steve has said he would be happy to play under Matthew Fleming. It is rare for county captains to serve for more than three years now. The job seems to be more pressurised."

HOCKEY

Kerly back to haunt his former colleagues

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

SEAN KERLY reflected yesterday on the period when he was a key figure in Southgate's successes. Fresh from his Olympic gold-medal triumph in Seoul in 1988, the high-scoring centre forward helped Southgate to win the National League title in their inaugural year. Earlier, with his assistance, they won the National Club Championship, now known as the EHA Cup, five times between 1982 and 1988.

Now, as manager of Canterbury, Kerly takes his unbeaten team and league leaders to his old club on Sunday for a key match in the National League premier division. "This is an important game and, if we win, it will put a lot of space between ourselves and the other teams in the top four," he said.

Southgate, who are second and were beaten 2-0 by Cannock last week, know that they must not concede possession easily through sloppy passing against a team that is strong in firepower. In seven matches, Canterbury have scored 32 goals compared with 20 by Southgate. Each side has conceded 13.

Cannock, the title-holders, visit East Grinstead, who had mixed fortunes in a double-header programme last weekend. A 6-4 victory over Teddington was followed by a 4-3 defeat at Bournville.

Reading, who picked up only one point from their two matches, are hoping to restore their fortunes in a home match against Old Loughtonians, for whom Scott-Smith, a Canadian centre forward, is the season's leading scorer with 14 goals.

Guildford are attempting to pick up the pieces this week after their 9-1 trouncing by Teddington last Sunday. This weekend they are at home to Bournville and Ian Jennings, their player-coach said: "We are back in the war zone. Someone has got to pay for our embarrassment."

Doncaster prepare for testing period

BY CATHY HARRIS

IT IS bad enough fighting a perennial struggle against relegation, but Doncaster approach their midwinter break with tough matches against Hightown, their northern rivals, and a rescheduled match against Slough, the Women's National League premier division champions, on Sunday.

The good news is they are not propping up the table. Raye Allen, the manager, thinks that the Yorkshire team is playing well. "We've given a good account of ourselves, only to concede goals at silly times," she said.

One point separates Doncaster from Sutton Coldfield at the bottom and the club has no local source of promising young players. Allen said: "The nearest good hockey school is an hour away. We'd love to be able to draw on a wealth of local talent."

Claire Ferguson, the captain and striker, and Karen O'Neill, a defender, are respected stalwarts, while Janelle Lowe, the midfield player, is turning in much-improved displays. One useful acquisition is Sally Wright, a Leeds University student and England Under-21 player.

Allen confesses that team spirit and good old Yorkshire grit helps to keep the side in the top flight. The thought of challenging the top four is a luxury, she says. "It's exciting taking on the best, but we're also under continual pressure to maintain our status."

Boosted by the sponsorship of Apollo Travel, the team can at least count on travel expenses being met. After entertaining Hightown, they head down the M1 to Southgate, where they meet Slough. The champions are still smarting after suffering their first defeat in 20 months when they lost to Ipswich last week. "It will be a matter of hard work and some luck," Allen said.

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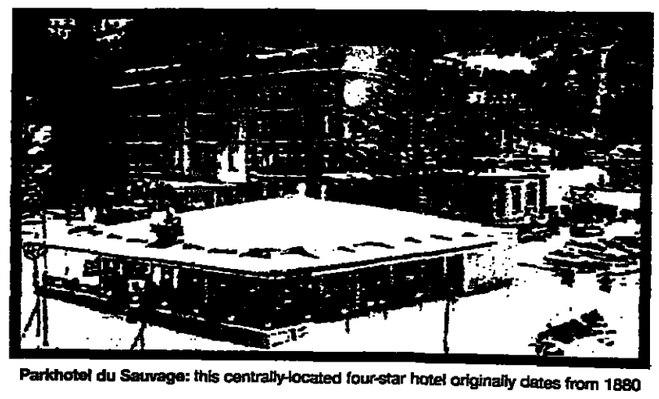
SKI FACTS Number of downhills runs 25. Beginners 33%; intermediate 55%; advanced 12%.

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Parkhotel du Sauvage: this centrally-located four-star hotel originally dates from 1880

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CHANGING TIMES

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THE TIMES

SNOOKER

Harold continues to rack up points

NETBALL

Late rally hope for f

BY CATHY HARRIS

THE England ... mid-range ... cross passing ... Under-21 when ... Crystal Palace ... Karen Greig ... goal shooter, ... runs in the final ... to steer the home ... coming 44-41 ... first international ... Gateshead on ... night.

Praised by Rachel ... the coach, for "making the right decisions ... when it mattered" as South ... caught back in the ... quarter, England's ... across the touring team ... days for the newly ... squad of under-21 ... who are preparing ... World Youth Cup ... next time.

Sonia Mkoloma, the ... player, who attended ... England trials last week ...

FIRST INTE SCORES

ENGLAND ... H Lin ... Percy ...

BASKETBALL

BOWLS

CRICKET

FOOTBALL

FA PREMIER ... Div 1/2 ... HIGHLAND LEA ... AVON INSURA ... Division ... PONTIN'S LE ... SCOTTISH ... First round ... EDINBURGH ... LEAGUE: Premi ... NORTHERN CO ... President's Cup ... ARNOTT ... LEAGUE CUP: ... ARNOTT ... First division ... COMPLETE ... Premier division ... JEWSON EASTER ... Premier division ... MINERVA SHARP ... LEAGUE: Premier ... NORTH WESTER ... PREMIER: Premier ... SUNDAY SUN ...

HOCKEY

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SKIN

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Claire Ferguson, the captain and striker, and Kate [illegible], defender and stalwart, will be the midfield [illegible] turning in man-of-the-match displays [illegible] Leeds University [illegible]

SNOOKER

Harold continues to rack up points

BY PHIL YATES

REFRESHED after a month-long honeymoon at the World Cup in France, Dave Harold has been the most consistent player this season. His haul of world-ranking points continued to build yesterday when he defeated Fergal O'Brien 6-4 in the quarter-finals of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship at Bournemouth.

Harold, a Stoke City season-ticket holder, has been unable to participate in his team's promotion drive lately as he has reached the latter stages of three consecutive events. He also reached the semi-finals of the Grand Prix and was runner-up to David Gray in the Benson and Hedges championship.

In overcoming O'Brien, a stubborn Dubliner who eliminated Ken Doherty unexpectedly in the last 16, Harold compiled breaks of 64, 53, 72 and 67 but, more crucially, snatched three frames on the black, one after requiring a snooker.

Harold won the 1993 Asian Open in Bangkok as a 500-1 outsider and figured in the Skoda Grand Prix final the following year, but his career was in decline until he employed Mike Smith, a long-time friend and competent player himself, as his coach.

"When you do everything on your own, this can be a lonely game," Harold said. "Mike and myself have tinkered around with a few technical things, but he's more valuable to me as a confidant."

Harold will meet Matthew Couch or Matthew Stevens in the semi-finals, while John Higgins seems destined to play Paul Hunter, who led Steve Davis 7-1 at the end of a startlingly one-sided session in which the six-times world champion performed poorly.

Hunter, who recovered from a 2-0 deficit to trounce Jimmy White 9-2 in the third round, again showed no respect for the reputation of Davis. The Yorkshireman, 20, constructed breaks of 46, 52, 45 and 61 and cleared yellow to pink in the third frame after Davis unforgivably missed an elementary blue.



Angelopoulos, pictured celebrating winning the 2004 Olympic Games for Athens, was typically persuasive when taking to the rostrum yesterday

Woman's touch wins the day

Rob Hughes reports on the contrast provided by two lofty individuals with similarly ambitious goals

Those who still believe that this is a man's world could not have been listening attentively in Huntingdon where 220 leaders of sport yesterday continued the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) conference on "Britain: A Player on the World Stage?"

The question is rhetorical, the decline of British influence obvious. We gave away the ball, and struggle to get it back; we lost administrative control, and are left begging for a turn to stage global events. And within a single session at Huntingdon, as Gianna Angelopoulos followed Tony Banks onto the rostrum, the contrast in style and substance was beguiling.

Banks, Minister for Sport, was full of enthusiasm, his words tumbling out. Then came Angelopoulos, a special ambassador for Greece, a study in sophistication, the woman who won the 2004 Olympic Games for Athens.

A rough diamond from the East End of London, a smooth lady from the Greek islands. A man not to be underestimated in his determination or his willingness to, as he put it, "kick arse" to get Britain into sporting shape; a woman who speaks with the benefit of legal training and Harvard grooming, and who combines motherhood with helping to run her husband's shipping company.

Banks makes no bones about it. He is willing to bet that England will stage the 2006 World Cup and is working to bring the 2012 Olympics to the same, as yet not rebuilt, Wembley Stadium. He is a wannabe, Angelopoulos is a winner. As she entered the conference hall, Banks was in full flow, hectoring the CCPR membership for being predominantly white and male.

"I'm not prepared to tolerate the terrible imbalance, the waste of resources of ethnic minorities and women," he said, "things will change at the highest levels quicker than you can imagine."

Banks begins to interview candidates for the chair of the English Sports Council next Tuesday. The smart money is on a woman. He has been given approval to form a "sports Cabinet" to harness across the board political will behind a one-nation sporting approach.

Banks spoke of dining this week with Juan Antonio Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president, and meeting Julio Grondona, a Fifa vice-president. Samaranch apparently encouraged the thought that the Olympics need Britain and that 2012 might be a favourable time to stage them in London, and Grondona is among 24 men who will decide the destination of the 2006 World Cup. Effectively, Banks said: "I'm pitching for Britain, get behind me and everything is possible."

Angelopoulos was persuasive. A year ago she visited 27 countries to seek votes for Athens. "Our bid for the centenary Games was devastated because it was based too much on emotion and heritage," she said. "We never proved that Athens was ready. But there was no resting on our laurels, we bid again with a four-part strategy."

This strategy included tackling the problems of infrastructure: cultivating support within and outside Athens; leadership and teamwork; and a disciplined focus to the goal of winning the Games for Greece.

One month before the vote in Lausanne, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) staged its world athletics championships in Athens. "That distinguished and charming IAAF president [Primo Nebiolo] came," Angelopoulos said. "People were trying to provoke us, hoping we would react to criticism in unsportsmanlike ways. They aimed their criticism at our pride to see what meant more to us — our ego or our aims. We tormented them with our good humour, our smile, our silence."

The message is that the IOC responds to discretion. "You in the UK understand better than anyone else the value of combining traditional with modern achievement," Angelopoulos said. "I know, because I choose to live in London." Indeed, one other thing that Angelopoulos has that Banks would cherish is a home off the King's Road, a stone's throw from his beloved Stamford Bridge.

BOWLS

Bryant can hold his head high in defeat

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

DAVID BRYANT met his match in the UK indoor singles championship yesterday, beaten in straight sets by Paul Foster, who is 42 years his junior.

Bryant, 67, had been tempted out of hibernation by the British Isles Indoor Bowling Council, who issued a wild-card invitation to the man who won 26 English and 13 world titles in a career that spanned six decades.

"It was an offer I could not refuse," Bryant said yesterday. "I feel I'm bowling as well as I was ten years ago, and it was good to be back playing at international level."

He certainly set about his task with relish. Bryant defied the odds by reaching the semi-finals, with excellent victories over Sandy Syme, the Scottish champion, and Jeremy Henry, the British champion.

The semi-final yesterday, in which the elder statesman of the game challenged the youthful world champion, captured the imagination of everyone, and although the 7-4, 7-4, 7-6 scoreline suggests that it was one-way traffic, it was truly a match to remember.

Straight sets, maybe, but fully two hours had elapsed by the time Bryant held out his hand to congratulate the winner, and 24 engrossing ends had been played.

Bryant took a four-shot lead in the first set, but Foster caught him with a full house, before winning the set with a double and a single.

The young Scot led 5-4 after nine ends in the second set, then broke the sequence of singles with a double on the tenth end.

"I thought I should have won the third set," Bryant said afterwards. "I missed a great chance to draw the winning shot on the penultimate end, and was a bit unlucky to hit the jack without trailing it on the very last end, when the scores were level at 6-6."

David Corkill, another old favourite, surprised Mervyn King, who was playing in his home county of Norfolk, in the other semi-final, inflicting a 7-0, 7-4, 7-5 defeat on the world No 3.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Olympic oarsmen turn up the heat

■ **ROWING:** Britain's leading Olympic oarsmen travel to the Gold Coast, Australia, today for a warm-weather training camp as part of their preparation for the Sydney Olympics. Tomorrow, they will be the guests of honour at the opening of the Hinze Dam that will be the pre-Olympic base for the Great Britain team in 2000. The group includes only three of Britain's world champion four, as Tim Foster is still suffering from a back injury. Fred Scarlett, who substituted for Foster in the fours head, will be present.

■ **GOLF:** Tiger Woods is two shots off the lead after the first round of the Casio World Open in Japan. The American shot four birdies in his three-under-par 69 to trail Naomichi Ozaki, of Japan, the leader, who had a 67. Woods hooked his first shot of the round into the the gallery and the ball bounced off a tree into the face of a spectator, who required treatment for a nosebleed.

■ **SKIING:** Alberto Tomba, one of Italy's greatest postwar sporting heroes, is to go on trial for tax fraud. Leonardo Grassi, the investigating magistrate, said that the trial would begin on March 29, 2000. Tomba is accused of failing to enter some 23 billion lire (14 million dollars) on his tax returns from 1990 to 1996. He faces up to five years in jail if convicted.

■ **BASKETBALL:** The NBA has announced that there will be no bargaining session with the players tomorrow and that none is scheduled for the immediate future, erasing optimism that the five-month long lockout may soon be resolved. The cancellation of tomorrow's session has taken the sides one step closer to the possible cancellation of the entire NBA season and came one day after the league announced that a televised double-header scheduled for Christmas Day had been scratched.

NETBALL

Late rally offers hope for future

BY CATHY HARRIS

THE England 2000 squad could wrap up the three-match series against South Africa Under-21 when they meet at Crystal Palace tomorrow after Karen Greig, the England goal shooter, scored three times in the final two minutes to steer the home side to an exciting 44-41 victory in the first international match at Gateshead on Wednesday night.

Praised by Rachel Folley, the coach, for "making the right decisions when it mattered" as South Africa fought back in the third quarter, England's victory against the touring team is the first for the newly formed squad of under-21 players, who are preparing for the World Youth Cup in two years' time.

Sonia Mkoloma, the goal-keeper, who attended senior England trials last weekend, marked the dangerous Rusky Mthethwa — although the South African still managed to convert 34 of her 41 attempts on goal for the Springboks. Lisa Ferneyhough, playing alongside Mkoloma in defence, is another player who has been watched closely by the senior selectors.

Greig was the leading goal-scorer for England with 27 and Jess Garland, daughter of Chris, the former Chelsea and Bristol City footballer, scored 17 for an impressive shooting percentage of 85 to sustain the England challenge.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL QUARTER SCORES (England first) 16-7, 24-20, 33-32, 44-41

ENGLAND 2000: K Greig (Greater Manchester), **L Ferneyhough** (Greater Manchester), **L Crolla** (Greater Manchester), **L Moore** (Durham), **J Garland** (Avon), **H Lincoln** (Norfolk), **C Ezeogu** (Essex Metropolitan), **L Hudson** (Essex Metropolitan), **A Newell** (Lancashire), **V Percy** (Tynemouth), **S Mkoloma** (Middlesex)

ICE SKATING

Judges applaud rule changes

FROM ANGELA COURT IN ZAGREB

THE judging of ice dance, recently described by an insider as being previously "a bit like art with every judge knowing what they liked, but not having any clear guidelines on how to mark it", seems to be making advances here this week at the world junior figure skating championships.

Allowing for the fact that people are bound to take time to adapt, the introduction of new rules to this discipline has been generally well received by the judges, who are claiming that the changes have simplified their task.

They say the requirements are now far easier to define, the deductions are laid down in black and white, and that it is much more desirable that the marks awarded are no longer so heavily weighted by personal taste.

Yesterday, the ice dance competition reached its second stage, the original dance, which this season is set to the waltz rhythm.

Several of the performances were excellent. Jamie Silverstein and Justin Pekarek, from the United States, won the section and are in the lead going into the free dance tonight. Federica Faiella and Luciano Milo, from Italy, and Natalia Romaniuta and Danil Barantsev from Russia, are second and third respectively.

This result is a complete turnaround from the compulsory dance section on Tuesday, and it is good to see some movement, finally, throughout an ice dance event. Sharon Hill and Andrew Hallam, from Great Britain, skated well but the high standard, coupled with the International Skating Union (ISU) having raised the age for junior male ice dancers to 21, has left them languishing in 17th place.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final round: Group C: England 87 Denmark 70 (at National Indoor Arena)

BOWLS

POTTERS LEISURE CENTRE, Norfolk: United Kingdom indoor singles championship: Quarter-finals: D Bryant (Eng) bt J Henry (Ire) 7-5, 7-3, P Foster (Scot) bt J Ross (Ire) 7-3, 7-5 **Semi-finals:** D Corkill (Ire) bt M King (Eng) 7-0, 7-4, 7-5, Foster bt Bryant 7-4, 7-4, 7-6

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: First day of four: Sydney: New South Wales 69-0 v Western Australia **Hobart:** Queensland 212 (G Denton 4-55), Tasmania 50-1 **Melbourne:** Victoria 248-1 (M T G Elliott 141 not out, J L Arnberger 80) v South Australia

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Ajax 0 Croatia Zagreb 1, Olympiakos 2 FC Porto 1 **Group B:** Rosenborg BK 2 Athletic Bilbao 1 **Group C:** Spartak Moscow 0 Sk Sturm Graz 0, Internazionale 3 Real Madrid 1 **Group D:** Barcelona 3 Manchester Utd 3; Bayern Munich 2 Brondby 0, **Group E:** Arsenal 0 Lens 1, Dynamo Kiev 2 Panathinaikos 1 **Group F:** HJK Helsinki 1 PSV Eindhoven 3, Benfica 2 Kaiserslautern 1

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Dumbarton 0 Montrose 2

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second round replay: Canterd 1 Farnborough 2

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Unifilla first division Cup: Second round: Farsley Celtic 1 Alfreton 3

RYMAN LEAGUE: Vandanel Trophy: Second round: Tring 0 Epsom and Ewell 2

DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP: First round, second leg: Brackley 1 Cambridge City 4, Salisbury 2 Bashley 2 **First round, first leg:** Corby 1 Stamford 0

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Blackburn 4 Bolton 1

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Clachnacuddin 1 Brora 0; Nairn County 5 Fort William 2, Rothes 0 Fraserburgh 5

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Cambridge 1 Swindon 2; Fulham 2 Tottenham 0; Luton 2 Ipswich 3, Oxford 0 Crystal Palace 0 Wimbledon 2 Chelsea 1, Wycombe 0 Norwich 2

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Burnley 2 West Bromwich 2 **Second division:** Huddersfield 2 Stockport 0 **League Cup: Group one:** Darlington 4 Middlesbrough 1, Scarborough 3 Hartlepool 4, **Group two:** Rotherham 0 York 0 **Group three:** Manchester City 3 Tranmere 3

SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIT CUP: First round: Portsmouth 3 Bournemouth 2

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Sandhurst 4 Reading 1

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: President's Cup: Third round: Hallam 2 Ossett Albion 1

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE CUP: Third round: Willington 0 Bedlington 5

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Shildon 2 Billingham Town 4

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Farnord 2 Almondsbury 0, Highworth 4 Abingdon 1, Tuffley 3 Shortwood 0, Wantage 1 North Leigh 3

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Stowmarket 2 Newmarket 1

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta 3 Harpenden 0,

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: Floodlit Trophy: First round, second leg: Atherton LR 0 Prescot Cables 1

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: First division: Ballyclare 5 Limavady 1

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Burgess Hill Tn 0 Millwall 7, Exeter 0 Ness County 2; Hull 5 Rochdale 4. **Second round replays:** Enfield 0 Gillingham 3, Reading 2 Hinckley 1

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third-round draw: Bury v Newcastle Unied, Welling United or Barnet v Hartlepool United, Manchester United v Everton, Manchester City v Sheffield Wednesday, Derby County v Charlton Athletic, Huddersfield Town v Bradford City, Watford v Bishop's Stortford or Romford, Lincoln City or Scunthorpe United v Portsmouth, Queens Park Rangers v Birmingham City, Southampton v Liverpool, Grimsby Town v Arsenal, Northampton Town or Stevenage Borough v Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur v Walsall or Plymouth Argyle, Crewe Alexandra v Southend United or Brentford or Wycombe Wanderers, Crystal Palace v Tranmere, Port Vale v Notts County, Stockport County v West Ham United, Gillingham v Leicester City, Boston Wanderers v Barnsley, Stoke City or Oldham Athletic v York City, Middlesbrough v Wolverhampton Wanderers, Norwich City v Blackburn Rovers, Sheffield United v Leyton Orient, Oxford United v Wimbledon, Brighton and Hove Albion v Coventry City, Preston North End v Peterborough United, Cambridge United v Ipswich Town, West Bromwich Albion v Nottingham Forest, Aston Villa v Hull City, Millwall v Reading; Sunderland v Bristol City, Swindon v Leeds United

☐ *Ties to be played by January 9*

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town 2 Angmer 1

WELSH CUP: Third round replays: BP Llandarcy 3 British Aerospace 2; Chepstow 2 Carmarthen 5, Flint 1 Rhyl 1 (Flint win 5-4 on pens).

WOMEN'S UNDER-18 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group six: England 5 Ireland 0 (at Telford Utd)

GOLF

BRISBANE: Australian Players championship: Leading first-round scores (Australia unless stated) **67:** S Loanoy, **68:** D McKenzie, R Pampling, M Long (NZ) **69:** C Pavin (US), J L Guepy (Fr), P Lonard **70:** C Warren, S Struver (Ger), B King, J van de Velde (Fr), N Kerry, T Domsey (US). **Other score: 71:** D Howell (GB)

IBUSUKI, Japan: Casio World Open: Leading first-round scores (Japan unless stated) **67:** N Ozaki, **68:** H Tanaka, M Obana, P Stankowski (US) **69:** B Watts (US), T Izawa, N Yuhara, Y Kaneko, Kim Jong Duk (S Kor), T Woods (US) **70:** M Ozaki, B Jobe (US), T Hamilton (US), Y Imano, Yeh Chang-ting (Taiwan), T Fukuzawa, H Goda.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 4 New York Rangers 2, Carolina 3 San Jose 0, Washington 5 Pittsburgh 4, Detroit 5 Anaheim 2, Florida 0 Boston 1, New York Islanders 4 Philadelphia 2, Toronto 5 Vancouver 1, Nashville 4 Calgary 3, Dallas 2 New Jersey 5, Edmonton 3 Colorado 0.

NETBALL

WOMEN'S UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCH (at Gateshead) England 44 South Africa 41.

SNOOKER

BOURNEMOUTH: Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship: Quarter-finals: J Higgins (Scot) bt J Parrott (Eng) 9-8, D Harold (Eng) bt F O'Brien (Ire) 6-4, M Couch (Eng) leads M Stevens (Wales) 5-3, P Hunter (Eng) leads S Davis (Eng) 7-1

TENNIS

HANOVER, Germany: ATP Tour world championship: Red group: Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 6-7, 6-3, 6-2. **White group:** T Henman (GB) bt A Corretja (Sp) 7-6, 6-7, 6-2, G Rusedski (GB) bt A Costa (Sp) 7-6, 6-1.

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Champions' League: Ferguson awaits critical fixture while Arsenal reflect on ill-starred campaign

United regret overindulgence

By Oliver Holt
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GUILT, perhaps, is too strong a word for it, but something akin to regret descended on Barcelona and Manchester United yesterday, like indigestion gripping a glutton. The fantasy was wonderful, intoxicating stuff while it lasted in the Nou Camp stadium on Wednesday night, but yesterday both teams were facing the reality that a 3-3 draw was not the result that either of them wanted.

It was worse for Barcelona, of course, whose chances of qualifying for the quarter-finals had been finally snuffed out. "A centenary without Europe," the mournful headline in *El Periodico* said. The club's 100th birthday celebrations will not seem the same without the chance to gild them with the European Cup.

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	5	3	1	1	8	5	10
Man Utd	5	2	3	0	19	10	9
Barcelona	5	1	2	2	9	9	5
Brondby	5	1	0	4	4	16	3



Yorke, who was in magnificent form, celebrates after scoring his second goal, with a header, against Barcelona. Photograph: Marc Aspland

United's reaction was more equivocal. There was bound to be pleasure in a performance that was among their most thrilling in European competition and so nearly turned into their best away victory for three decades. They were vibrant, skilful and flowing and their forwards, Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole, tore the Barcelona defence to shreds.

Nor should it be forgotten that they have already outlasted Barcelona in the toughest of all the groups in the Champions' League, that they have defied the doubters who said that they would be exposed by the might of the Spanish giants. They have proved that they can mix it with the elite of Europe.

However, their inability to protect a lead has cost them dearly already this season and the same weakness afflicted them twice more on Wednesday night, when other teams might have stifled the match and the magnificence of Rivaldo, Barcelona's Brazil midfield player, and secured the result.

If it seems graceless and parsimonious to criticise United for any part of their display, the fact remains that, for all the unparalleled entertainment they have offered in Europe this season, everything rests on their sixth and last group match, against Bayern Munich on December 9.

If United win, they will go through to the last eight. If they lose, they will not. If they draw, it should just be enough to secure the second of the two best runners-up places.

The first is likely to be claimed by either Real Madrid or Internazionale, of group C, but there is also a danger that Galatasaray and Rosenborg, from group B, might both outdo Alex Ferguson's side. If Juventus beat the Turks in Istanbul next Wednesday, a point against Bayern Munich will almost certainly see United through.

It is still impossible to quell a feeling of unease about the game against the Germans, though. Memories of United's failure to overtake Borussia Dortmund in the semi-final second leg two years ago are still raw and painful. Only a one-goal victory was needed to beat AS Monaco at Old Trafford in the quarter-finals last season, but United could not achieve it. Then there is the small matter of the hold that German teams seem to have over English teams.

"We do believe we can beat Bayern," Jaap Stam, the United defender, said. "But the German teams are always tough because they come back at you. Sometimes you play them and you think you are winning in the game, but then they come back at you. They are very strong that way.

"We have seen it before with their national team in European championships and World Cups where it did not look like the Germans would make it. Sometimes you think they are not going to do well, but they nearly always seem to get there in the end.

"Because of all that, this match will require 100 per cent concentration from us. A draw may be enough but I am not sure how the other groups are. It would be better for us to win and come first in the group rather than have to think about other teams and hope they might do us a favour. We have got to win to make sure."



Ferguson: light-hearted

It would be a surprise if Ferguson repeats his bold experiment of playing Wes Brown instead of Phil Neville at right back. For all Brown's attacking flair, he was caught out of position too often and found it hard to cope with the running and skills of Zenden. Ferguson's willingness to attack Barcelona must be admired, but it is hard to escape the feeling that with the younger Neville in the side, resistance to the Catalan fightback might have been stiffer.

Terry Venables, the former Barcelona manager, mused afterwards that Rivaldo might have found less space if David Beckham had not played in quite as wide a role, but against the Germans, when Ryan Giggs may have been restored to the side, it is likely United will go for their opponents' throats again.

In Yorke and Cole, they have two strikers playing at the top of their game. Barcelona singularly failed to cope with their pace and guile and Ottmar Hitzfeld, the Bayern coach, will have to make their containment his priority.

For Ferguson, their excellence is merely a cause of merriment. "Would you pick Andy Cole if you were England manager," someone asked him after the match. "If I was England manager," Ferguson said in his broadest Scottish accent, "they'd be relegated."

Wenger will not resort to panic buys

By Matt Dickinson

FOR all the relentless clamour for Arsène Wenger to spend his millions by teatime, there is not a whole lot wrong with Arsenal that three weeks in the Bahamas could not put right. It was not so long ago, after all, that Highbury's best XI made mugs of Manchester United.

Dennis Bergkamp could rest his tight calf on a sun lounger, while Emmanuel Petit, who is likely to be out until after Christmas with a stomach strain, could finally reflect on his World Cup triumph at the bar.

Tony Adams could ease his back strain under the warming rays, while Patrick Vieira's hamstring is eased to fitness in the ocean. Nicolas Anelka could do with the time to remind himself that top-class strikers do not always have to score top-class goals. And then there is Marc Overmars, for whom a holiday cannot come soon enough.

All they need is a break, but instead Arsenal's collection of wounded, aged and dejected were up at the training ground yesterday striving to be fit as soon as possible. Knocked out of the Champions' League at a hopelessly premature stage by a 1-0 defeat to Lens on Wednesday night, they can scarcely afford to lose ground in the FA Carling Premiership, so the pressure is on for the players to return. And quickly.

There is little other option because the word from Highbury yesterday was that, while the team is creaking and groaning under the strain, the directors are standing as stubborn as ever. They will not, even in the wake of the disappointment at Wembley, abandon their policy of sensible husbandry, however many international stars they have to reject.

At any other club, such tight economics would almost certainly have led to a rift between board and manager, but not at Arsenal. Indeed, it was Wenger who insisted that there was no need for a knee-jerk reaction as the dust began to settle on his team's turgid European Cup campaign — which still has to take in a trip to Panathinaikos. "Now is a bad time to take decisions," he said. "We need to sit down and think."

The reaction from Arsenal supporters to that news will, of course, be one of horror. They will have wanted to hear that a bid for Alan Shearer had been faxed to Newcastle before the lights went off at Wembley on Wednesday night. Or that rumours of Nwankwo Kanu's imminent arrival from Internazionale were based on solid evidence. Indeed, they will have been desperate for any upbeat news at all.

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Kiev	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Lens	5	2	2	1	4	3	8
Panathinaikos	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Arsenal	5	1	2	2	5	7	5

Even some of the Arsenal players appear to be calling for back-up, with Martin Keown confronting the subject head on yesterday. "The problem is that the Arsenal first XI picks itself," he said. "Manchester United and Chelsea can spin their players around and still have good players in most positions. It is hard for our lads to just come in, step up to another level and perform better than the players they have replaced."

Wenger, though, continues to frustrate hopes of reinforcements, and those of us who have marvelled at his astute management since his unheralded arrival from Japan can only assume that he knows exactly what he is doing as he waits for players he believes can match the desire of those he already has in the dressing-room. It is the policy of a brave man, who believes he can soldier through. He will not be rushed. With his record, nor should he be.

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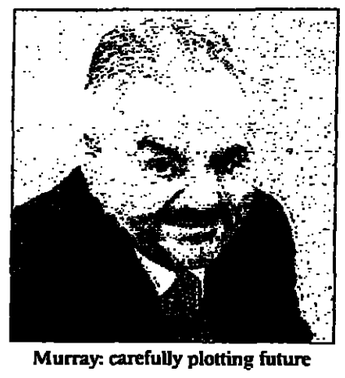
By George Caulkin

WITHIN minutes of senior British football's last remaining unbeaten record coming to an unexpected end last Saturday, telephone lines were beginning to hum to the tremulous tones of Worried from Wearside and Frustrated from Fulwell. Sunderland lead the Nationwide League first division by five points, yet the radio was reverberating with the words of their nervous supporters.

If the improbable plot-line awarded to the club over the past four seasons — near-relegation, promotion, relegation, agony in the play-offs — makes in-built fatalism a forgivable by-product, the main topic of conversation among the more vociferous of England's biggest crowd after the 3-2 defeat to Barnsley was a little more tangible.

It amounted to money. It is always money. On the airwaves and in the local letter pages, they ask when Sunderland will demonstrate a similar ambition in the transfer market as that which conceived and constructed the Stadium of Light? When will Peter Reid's hunger for success translate itself into prominent signings?

Linked with Duncan Ferguson on Monday, they signed Gavin McCann for £500,000 from Everton yesterday. Any concern at this perceived parsimony is swatted away by Bob Murray, the club chairman. The question is a familiar one: he gets it as often as being told by well-wishers that Sunderland will definitely go up this time. Inquiries about new players are directed to Reid who, Murray says, "runs everything to do with the playing side — in totality".



Murray: carefully plotting future

Murray is far more disturbed by an injury list that he describes as "horrendous". Kevin Phillips, the leading goalscorer last season, has not played for more than two months, Michael Gray, the left back, has missed three matches and Lee Clark has only just returned to the team after breaking a fibia.

That trio cost less than £3 million: if McCann has a similar impact, few will complain. Well, actually, they almost certainly will. "We're a plc and we're very visual," Murray said. "What we have, we have and what we haven't, we haven't. It's there for everybody to see, our wealth and wellbeing. We're a public company. Peter knows his parameters and he works within them. He knows we won't let him down, so we've got to provide him with the resources he sees as appropriate."

Those requirements would rise substantially should Sunderland ascend to the FA Carling Premiership this season. Murray admits that "two of the three teams coming down consistently doesn't really augur well" and, even last year, senior players were talking in terms of heavy investment. Aware of this, the club will increase the capacity of its stadium by a further 6,000 should they win promotion, climbing to a possible 64,000 if England host the 2006 World Cup.

"It's a three-phase development and would form a complete wraparound," Murray said. "It would depend on us getting to the Premiership, retaining our status, the demand being there for more seats and the World Cup. Those three things would determine the three phases, but we would like to extend the ground if we go up."

Yesterday, the club unveiled revised plans for a new football academy. After losing to Charlton on penalties in the play-off final in May — "it was like a bereavement" — there is little excuse for complacency. The chairman points to the record number of women season-ticket holders, to the fact that the Football Task Force referred to the club as "a blueprint". This, he says, "is the new Sunderland". Those who remember its older incarnation may require still more convincing.

Shearer pleased about Ferguson

By Stephen Wood

ALAN SHEARER, of Newcastle United, gave his approval yesterday to the club's £7 million signing of Duncan Ferguson, the forward, from Everton. "It is a fantastic signing and if we can play together, which I am sure we can, there should be one or two goals," the England captain, who hopes to have recovered from a hamstring injury in time for the visit of Wimbledon tomorrow, said. "Duncan is a big name and I hope we can now bring the club the success that it deserves."

Liverpool expect to complete the signing of Jean-Michel Ferri today, the first acquisition by Gerard Houllier as sole manager of the club. If the defensive midfield player passes a medical, he will leave Istanbulspor, the Turkish club, for £1.7 million. Ferri, 29, has played for France five times and has said a transfer to Liverpool would be his "dream move".

Southampton are expected to sign Joey Beauchamp, the Oxford United winger, subject to a medical. The Nationwide League first division club need to sell a player to stave off the threat of closure.

Howard Kendall, the former manager of Everton, is returning to management with Jerez, the Spanish second division club. Kendall has already had two successful years in Spain, in charge of Athletic Bilbao.

The transfer of Carlton Palmer to Barnsley has collapsed because Darren Barnard, the Barnsley winger who was the other half of the swap deal, has failed to agree terms with Southampton.

Everton handed awkward test

By John Goodbody

EVERTON, the holders, were drawn away to Manchester United yesterday in the third round of *The Times* FA Youth Cup. The match will be the tie of the round in a competition that has been a proving ground for players such as George Best, Paul Gascoigne, Ryan Giggs and David Beckham in the past 47 years.

Gareth Barry, 17, the Aston Villa central defender, played in the tournament last season and has made a considerable impact in the FA Carling Premiership this season.

Barry made the draw for the third round of the competition, which has been restructured this season. It now has a similar format to the FA Cup, with the larger clubs only taking part from the third round.

The 20 Premiership and 24 Nationwide League first division clubs were thrown together yesterday with the 20 clubs who have survived the qualifying rounds.

Barry drew his club to play at home to Hull City. Last season Villa were beaten 4-2 at home by Notts County. "It was the biggest game I'd played for Villa, with several thousand in the ground," Barry said.

Draw, page 51

مكذا من الأصل

Honest Henry helps to create nation's new mood

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Union Commentary

In a television interview before his first match as coach of Wales, Graham Henry, while not giving much away apart from the fact that he possesses a dry sense of humour, was asked to outline any weaknesses in the South Africa team. He answered, straightforwardly, that he did not think there were any. "I think they're very together. The best team in the world," he said. This is revealing in the sense that few, if any, coaches would care to admit that they were unable to detect any flaws in the opposition. To discover aspects of vulnerability and so project their own tactical perspicacity, whether bullish or merely fanciful, goes with the coach's territory. Henry, refreshingly, made no such claims.

> 'There is a strong urge to justify themselves'

For their own credibility, coaches feel the need to express a level of wisdom not given to others. For their own sense of authority, coaches need to undermine the opposition, falsely or not, and in so doing hope to raise their own good name. In addition, when faced with a powerful reputation such as that of South Africa, to give succour and comfort, however temporary or imaginary, forms part of the pastoral care he affords those who are next in the line of fire. There is a strong urge to justify themselves to themselves and to the world beyond. Having admitted to detecting the supposed defects, there are coaches, upon being asked to reveal their secrets, who would, with a wink and a nudge, admit no more.

This was, we would have all to understand, not for the world to know: a matter better left between him and his players. Politicians are not the only ones to dissemble in this way. Sport is largely about the supremacy of ideas and skill; very rarely of waffle, though many have tried and fallen in the attempt to make it seem so.

Henry says it as it is: New Zealanders rarely bluff where rugby is concerned. So for his purposes, if he could not discover any weaknesses, he would say so and so he did. This suggests a degree of confidence not always given to coaches: a deeply insecure breed. New Zealanders are rarely prone to public display of euphoria, either. So it may be that he cannot quite understand, in the context of a loss and a win in two games, the sudden outbreak of celebration in Wales. The past two Mondays, after the previous Saturday's spectacular events, have been as they once were: there was a spring in the step of the nation as off to work it went.

What has given rise to this new hope is not so much the proud heart and stubborn will which very nearly put the Springboks to flight and overcame Argentina, but rather of the manner of the play itself. To begin with, there was none of that sense of inhibition that has so persistently knotted all Wales teams of the past decade or the sense of play being determined beforehand, of players restrained.

There has been not a little free-will in both the Wales performances and a lot of belief that they can play the attacking game confidently with the ball in hand. The ball, in fact, was in play for 42 minutes against South Africa, when the normal expectation is around the 30-minute mark. It is too early for any proper judgment — that will have to wait until the final game of the Five Nations Championship — but the evidence so far is of a Welsh game liberated of its straitjacket. This, more than anything, has given rise to the recent sense of joy in rugby.

Up until the game last Saturday, when Neil Jenkins had as fine a game as he has had for his country, there was some idle talk as to whether his place might be taken by Shane Howarth, who had previously shown an eye for the gap and the speed to take it; credentials of a kind expected, in certain circumstances, of a fly half. In truth, Howarth is the player, from full back, who adds the extra dimension that provides rhythm to the team with an attacking spirit.

To take fuller advantage of his exciting interventions, however, Wales need wingers with the speed of the 100 metres sprinters, not those of the 400 metres. Fine and important though their performances have been hitherto, both James and Thomas are in the mould of the latter, neither having the 100-metre sprinter's capacity to be swift enough off the mark and to be up to speed in the first ten metres; not indeed to change pace quickly enough. Because of this, precious chances created by Howarth may go astray.

> 'There has been none of that sense of inhibition'

Yet such a pernickety point may hardly be worth bothering about. For all this potential, the dilemma for Wales comes from the realisation that ten players — it would have been 11 but for Scott Quinnell's recent change of clubs — belong to teams who are not in the Welsh Rugby Union's league. Only Llanelli and Pontypridd of the Welsh League clubs have any representation. Cardiff and Swansea, the so-called rebel clubs who play English Allied Dunbar Premiership teams, have eight. For Henry to have any chance of building on the foundation that he has laid, Welsh rugby needs to have a coherent structure. The establishment of four super-clubs is proposed, but this can only have a chance of succeeding if there is a British league in place. This, as yet, is far from being so. Henry must hope that he is not building a foundation on sand.

Baron puts change at top of agenda

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE game in England, which has meandered from crisis to crisis since the advent of professionalism, must pick up the pace of change in much the same way as the national side must do tomorrow against Australia at Twickenham. Francis Baron, the new chief executive of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), called yesterday for a resolution to the stand-off with leading clubs and a far more effective administration by the union itself.

Baron will spell out his beliefs to a meeting of the English Rugby Partnership today. "We should now focus on a deadline by which we will have reached agreement for the future of the game," he said. "We need to resolve these issues well in advance of the World Cup."

Baron, who also announced that England would not participate in the Hong Kong Sevens in March,emphasised the importance of putting resources behind England in their preparations for the 1999 tournament. But he must report



Dallaglio: challenge

soon after Christmas on potential cutbacks to the RFU administration, so that the organisation becomes more cost-effective and can also fund the game at grass-roots level.

The union, £10 million in debt over the past two years and with a £34 million repayment on the West Stand to be made, must find ways of raising its income. "We have to change in just about every respect," Baron said. "Our administration is ineffective, over-hefty and our cost base is much too large."

All of which has left the international tomorrow in the shade, even though the teams will be attempting to show the attractive side of the game. "It was very dull against Italy, and we won't beat the likes of Australia without a bit of imagination." Matt Perry, the England full back, said.

A fluent England game will depend, too, on the cohesion of the back row, in which Richard Hill, though wearing the number eight on his back, is likely to spend as much time on the side of the scrum with Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, at No 8. Dallaglio said: "We are well aware of the enormity of the challenge."

SRU under fire as Irvine and Jeffrey resign

By Alasdair Reid

ANDY IRVINE yesterday resigned as chairman of the Scottish Rugby Union's (SRU) international game board, launching a withering attack on the governing body and, in particular, Duncan Paterson, its executive chairman.

It was as dramatic an off-field occasion as any in the history of Scottish rugby. Irvine, the former Scotland and British Isles full back, had been brought into the Murrayfield administration to lend it credibility as part of a management reorganisation 21 months ago. Yesterday, his frustration over how the game has developed in that time — and over the resistance to change from within Murrayfield — prompted him to step down. In doing so, he was damning in his criticism of the regime that he has left behind.

The developments yesterday followed weeks of speculation over Paterson's position, the rumours fuelled by an SRU debt that has recently grown to almost £17 million, diminishing crowds at international matches and widespread discontent over the strategy of concentrating Scotland's best players into two underachieving super-district sides.

On Wednesday evening, despite opposition from Paterson, Irvine addressed a specially convened meeting of the union's general committee when he proposed, among other things, more openness, an independent review of the union's operations, a reduction in committee fees and the removal of Paterson.

Although the committee agreed to some of his demands, Irvine considered that it had not gone far enough. So, too, did John Jeffrey, the former Scotland flanker, who also stepped down from his positions as an international selector, a member of the international game board and a board member of European Rugby Cup Ltd. Both, however, said that they would return to the fold if more substantial changes were made.

Rob Howley, the Wales captain, will have surgery on damaged knee ligaments on Tuesday and will be out for three weeks. The problem flared up between the defeat by South Africa and the 43-30 win over Argentina. The Cardiff scrum half will miss his side's Swalec Cup game against Seven Sisters.

Initially, it appeared that the union had spiked its critics' guns by announcing that it would hold a two-day conference involving all member clubs and an independently chaired review of structure and governance. It also agreed to a 35 per cent reduction in committee fees and an assurance from Paterson that he would "at an appropriate time" step down from his position as executive chairman, although he would remain as a committee member. The limited response clearly infuriated Irvine and Jeffrey.

"They conceded some points, but they weren't prepared to back me to the full," Irvine said. "I felt I had no alternative but to resign. I do so with great regret and I am sorry that, in doing so, I am letting one or two people down." Irvine said that he felt particular regret with regard to Jim Telfer, the international coach, and his assistants.

The resignations of two such high-profile and widely respected figures in Scottish rugby will bring yet more pressure on Paterson, for whom Irvine reserved his strongest words. "In my opinion, Duncan Paterson's position is now untenable and he should have stepped down last night," Irvine, capped 52 times, said.

Jeffrey said that his reasons for resigning owed more to the backdrop of recent matches and the decision, taken in March, to amalgamate four district sides into two. "It hurt me deeply that a lot of players lost their jobs and incomes when that was done," he said. "Over the past six months, things have gone from bad to worse. It has been embarrassing to watch."

Bill Watson, the SRU chief executive, defended the proposals agreed at the meeting on Wednesday. "The committee has agreed to hold an independently chaired study into Scottish rugby," he said. "That will be an opportunity for everyone in the game to put forward ideas on how it should be run."

PETER KEMP



Jeffrey, left, and Irvine explain the reasons behind their decisions to resign yesterday

Rushden in line to claim top billing

Non-League Football
By Keith Pike

IF Old Trafford is the Theatre of Dreams at the pinnacle of English club football, Nene Park equates to a one-man show performing to a more select, if equally discerning, audience. But no tour of the non-league provinces is complete without *An Evening With* ... Rushden and Diamonds, and the show should be caught soon. Its very success may force it off the stage by the end of the season.

By winning the Football Conference, Rushden would not only claim a place in the Nationwide League but also complete an astonishing seven-year journey from obscurity. They can take a significant step towards their objective by deposing Cheltenham Town, the leaders, tomorrow.

Formed by the merger of Rushden Town and Irthlingborough Diamonds in 1992 and sustained by the generosity and desire of Max Griggs, one of the country's wealthiest men, the Diamonds boast a gem of a stadium in Northamptonshire, a small but perfectly formed arena with facilities that some of the largest clubs in the land would die for.

But Nene Park's splendour can also work against them, and the fact that they must meet Cheltenham at Whaddon Road in Gloucestershire does not worry Brian Talbot, the manager. "Everyone loves playing here and you certainly don't need to motivate the opposition," he said. "The ground is magnificent, but it can also be a hindrance."

The figures support him. No team won more matches on their travels last season than Rushden, who finished fourth.

Cheltenham are unbeaten at home this campaign and Rushden unbeaten away. "We think we have a good chance of the title, but there are three or four others who can win it and Cheltenham are certainly among them," Talbot said. "They have no real weaknesses — a good, hard-working side. Just like Macclesfield and Halifax [the past two Conference champions], they seem able to put long unbeaten runs together, getting points when not at their best."

Rushden may be without the two most prolific Conference marksmen. Adrian Foster is definitely out and Darren Collins, one goal behind him, is rated only 50-50. Yet Talbot, who spent eight happy years at Ipswich Town, insists that management can be fun, injuries notwithstanding. "It is hugely enjoyable at Rushden," he said. "I think I can achieve all my ambitions here."

TOP SIX

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cheltenham	16	9	5	2	33	17	32
Stevenage	17	9	5	3	23	14	32
Kettering	19	9	5	5	23	15	32
Rushden	16	9	4	2	33	13	31
Kingstonian	16	8	4	4	26	22	28
Yeovil	17	7	6	4	24	21	27

Walkinshaw has peace formula

Mark Souster on the man who is determined to heal rugby's wounds

Tom Walkinshaw did not know whether he should be congratulated or commiserated with after his election as chairman of English First Division Rugby on Tuesday. It is the job that no one really wanted, one that to date has proved something of a poisoned chalice. Succeeding Donald Kerr, he says, was the last thing on his mind; after all, his involvement in rugby, as the owner of Gloucester, was only meant to be a sideline to the high-powered, high-finance world of Formula One motor racing.

So much for good intentions. Tired of the hectoring and the recriminations, his fellow owners turned to him in their hour of need. In him they saw a moderate voice, one who understands their needs and concerns, but someone also to whom the Rugby Football Union (RFU) would listen.

Now that he has been charged with leading the clubs towards what they hope will be a brighter and more stable future, Walkinshaw intends to approach the job with his customary zeal. "The sport and the public demand a solution," he said. "It cannot be allowed to continue in the same directionless manner. The game is suffering too much."

Walkinshaw, a quiet but determined Scot, from Lanark, is adamant that the climate is right and that enough goodwill exists on club and RFU sides to end the agony once and for all. "It would be crass stupidity if everyone did not grasp this opportunity," he said. "We have all seen what happens if you go the other way. A lot of damage has been done to the game and it has to stop for everybody's sake.

"I think that if we are all genuine in our stated desire to move forward together then we can sort everything out. The professional game has new problems, the question we have is how we deal with them and how we develop a vision for the game over the next decade.



Walkinshaw: tough task

"We are working towards that. There is a new feeling that we should sit down and discuss things calmly and objectively. We need to get rid of the trivia and concentrate on the main issues. The problem has been that even the trivia became flashpoints."

The problems are many, the issues complex. Now that he is in place, he wants to be left to get on without interference, to build on the personal relationship that he has with Brian Baister, the RFU chairman.

He is not setting any deadlines, although he has a timescale in his mind, and gives no clues as to what that the future structure of the game might look like. It may include a British league, or a strong Allied Dunbar Premiership, or, perhaps, some new competition. There is also the possibility of a franchise system being introduced. And what about Europe?

"Nothing is black and white. We have to make sure we make the right call. The priority is to establish next year's domestic season which, with the World Cup, will not be easy," Walkinshaw said.

"Once that is agreed, we have the European position to consider with the other countries. Europe is high on the agenda. But, as everyone knows, we do not believe that the current structure is correct. We want a meaningful competition in which we have rights, as is the case in France.

"The RFU believes we should have that as well. There is no confrontation between the clubs and the union, and we want to do things with the full blessing of the union."

Will he stay the course, however? "I have agreed to help for a certain period," he said. "I am not saying now long. As far as rugby and Gloucester is concerned, I am in this for the long term, all the owners are, as long as they can see a road ahead. At the moment we are stuck on the roundabout getting nowhere. We have to have a clear road ahead, but we can get there."

Discipline the key in Dublin

From Mark Souster in Dublin

THERE is little doubt that the ill-tempered international between South Africa and Ireland in Pretoria this summer left a sour taste in the mouth, one that neither country would care to or intends to see repeated at Lansdowne Road tomorrow.

At their respective press conferences here yesterday, Warren Gatland, the Ireland coach, and Nick Mallett, his South Africa counterpart, went to considerable lengths to play down talk of a grudge match or of a lingering feud. Each stressed the need for their players to maintain their discipline.

"Both teams will be disappointed with some of the incidents that happened in the second Test," Gatland said. "We will be disappointed if this game ends up as anything other than a hard, clean contest. Our aim will be to be disciplined."

Mallett said he was unconcerned about the "grudge theories", but agreed that incidents during the Test, for which South Africa were equally culpable, did not serve rugby well. Mallett described the game, won 33-0 by South Africa to secure the series, as a "bit of an aberration", for which he blamed the referee, Joel Dumé, of France, for not taking firm control. "It turned into what looked like a first division match in France.

"What happened was that in the first Test in Bloemfontein, South Africa was not prepared for the physical confrontation. We weren't quite as respectful of Ireland as we should have been. I do not see what happened in the second Test happening at Lansdowne Road. I am convinced there will be a lovely atmosphere."

The feeling persists within the South Africa team that Ireland, who will wear a predominantly white change strip with green sleeves tomorrow to avoid a clash of colours, deliberately set out to provoke and intimidate.

Gary Teichmann, the South Africa captain in Pretoria and again tomorrow, said: "We do not intend falling into that kind of trap again. We have always stressed that discipline is the key to a successful side."

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Don embraces Olympic spirit with bit of neighbourly help

David Powell, athletics correspondent, on a young triathlete not content with being the son of a top referee

TRIATHLETE MAGAZINE



Tim Don has overcome a series of mishaps in leading events to emerge as the world junior triathlon champion

Tim Don has sat in some of the finest directors' boxes in English football, but there is no place in sport like the champion's chair. Especially the world champion's chair.

Four years after his father went to USA 94 as England's only referee at the football World Cup finals, Tim reigns as Britain's first junior triathlon world champion since 1992. "He is like me — an individual and very well disciplined," Philip Don, now the referees' officer for the FA Premier League, said.

Tim's individuality began to blossom five years ago when he started to long for the life of his neighbour in Twickenham rather than that of his father. He played football, for school and borough, and recalls sitting among the directors at Old Trafford, Highbury and Elland Road. Yet the Robsons and Inces, the Winterburns and Wrights, were not his heroes. He wanted to be like Spencer Smith, from up the road.

Smith was Britain's last junior world champion, which means that the Thames Turbo club has spawned two, for it is Tim's club, too. Smith has won the senior world title twice since and Dave Bellingham, the Great Britain team manager, believes that Tim can bridge the divide between juniors and seniors.

"Tim is very tough and determined," Bellingham said. "I believe he can make the transition to senior level, but we have to be aware that it takes two to three years. Certainly, by 2004, we would be looking at him as a contender for doing well at the Olympics."

That determination has taken Tim to Zimbabwe in the past two winters for low-budget, high-altitude training. It has been, in a sense, football-sponsored because the funding has been provided by his father.

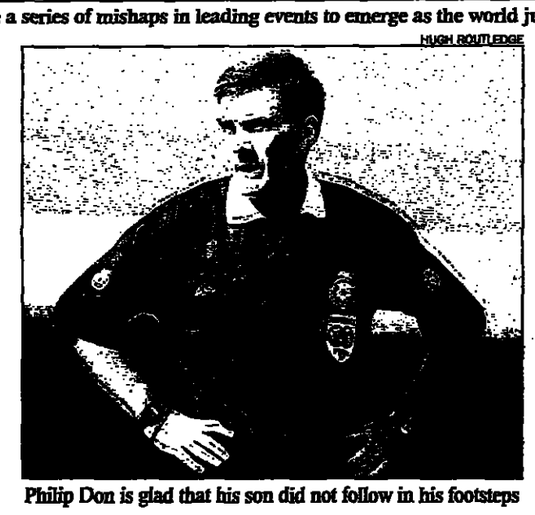
Some is recovered through prize-money and Tim received grants towards travel and accommodation on the European Cup circuit. "He is world champion on a shoestring," his father said. Only now has he been put on the National Lottery sports funding programme. Lottery money will enable Tim, 20, to join the World Cup tour next year, the qualification route to the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. However, he has ground to make up if he is to earn a place, as the process of accumulating points has begun already.

Tim finished the season as leading junior in the European Cup, finishing sixth among the seniors, and his world title has opened the door to the St George Formula 1 series along the Sydney coastline in January.

Given that the 2000 Olympics are in Sydney, and that Australia is the most powerful triathlon nation, it will provide invaluable experience for the young Englishman.

The series field is restricted to 25 invited competitors, so it is a mark of the regard that the sport has for Tim that he should have been asked to take part.

Like Smith, Tim comes from a swimming background. Through that, he met triathletes who were friends of Smith and the great adventure began. "I saw Spencer turning into a successful triathlete, and gradually I started to do a bit of running," Tim said.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Philip Don is glad that his son did not follow in his footsteps

It was during the run, in the image of Simon Lessing's victory in the senior race the day before, that Tim won his world title in Lausanne in August. In the group at the end of the ride, he won by 40 seconds, an extraordinary margin. And just when he was beginning to earn the soubriquet Calamity Tim. His championship record had become a catalogue of mishaps.

Three years ago, he crashed in the European duathlon and ended up in hospital. Last year he failed to finish the European and world championships after suffering a puncture and then dehydration. This year, at the European championships, he had his bike stolen.

He will take the physical abuse, though he is thankful that he did not follow his father onto the pitch of verbal abuse. Had refereeing never appealed? "Definitely not," Tim said. "Not with the stick my Dad got."

Don Sr, a referee for 29 years, is relieved, too. "I would not have encouraged him to become a referee," he said. "Society has changed and there is very little respect for people in authority."

Furthermore, why settle for being the man in the middle when, like Don Jr, you can be the man at the front?

TELEVISION CHOICE

Hope for car crime capital

Gardening Neighbours
BBC2, 8.30pm

The project to transform the gardens of a Sheffield cul-de-sac is turning into much more than bits of friendly advice on how to make a rockery or revive a bare lawn. With neighbours there is always the potential for friction and tonight hostilities break out. The problem is what to do with the central reservation which has become overgrown and rutted with tyre marks. Steve Herbert, the radio engineer from No 7, wants the area flattened so that cars can manoeuvre more easily. He threatens to quit the project unless his neighbours agree. They do not. Kay Harrap from No 3 says they want something aesthetic, not a Safeways car park. Meanwhile, Michelle Cooper, the forthright single mother, is also in combative mood, complaining about a general lack of progress.

Dangerfield
BBC1, 9.30pm (10.20pm Ireland)

The penultimate episode of the current series ends with an explosive cliff-hanger designed to guarantee a big audience for next week's finale. To tell you what it is would spoil things, so suffice to say that a police informant held at a safe house gets violent, bullets start to fly and one of the show's main characters ends up in hospital on a life-support machine. The informant is played by Miles Anderson, an actor who makes a speciality of playing characters whose surface charm can mask a dangerously perverted mind. But away from the police work all is not gloom. The surgery of Nigel Havers's Dr Paige provides its usual quota of lightish relief (with such a staff it could hardly fail to) while on the romantic front Paige's new girlfriend (Lynsey Baxter) looks like taking a more prominent part in his life.

Jim Davidson So Far
BBC1, 10.20pm

Having been a game show host for so long, Jim Davidson evidently feels it is time to get back to his original job of stand-up. He does so with a routine based loosely on his own career, not omitting gags about his former wives or the tabloid headlines (or, at least, some of less scurrilous) which he unfailingly attracts. One mild surprise is that it takes him all of 15 minutes to get to the Viagra jokes. More surprising, perhaps, is that a comic who makes so much of his South London accent should have had a Scottish father and an Irish mother. It seems that Davidson's rise was due in part to dear old Arthur Askey, a comedian of an older and more innocent tradition. When Davidson won the television talent show New Faces, Askey was one of the judges.



Nigel Havers and Jane Gurnett star in the penultimate *Dangerfield* (BBC1)

Stella Street
BBC2, 11.15pm

The idea of peopling a suburban London street with celebrities such as Michael Caine, Jack Nicholson and Mick Jagger continues to provide jolly fun, though the show is never quite as funny as it promises to be. But the very silliness of the venture is appealing and if John Sessions and Phil Cornwell, who between them play all the characters, sometimes miss the target, the level of mimicry is high. Tonight Al Pacino is getting married to his nurse. It is the cue for a raft of jokes built around Pacino's *Godfather* persona, the introduction of Dustin Hoffman and a very bloated Marlon Brando and further humiliation for Stella Street's resident fallguy, Jimmy Hill. It is never clear what Hill is doing in such company, except that the entire show is about incongruity of one sort of another.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Strictly Conventional
Radio 4, 11.00am

This new series is about those vast gatherings where people are urged to improve their motivation, so naturally it is all about America. Quentin Cooper went to the National Speakers Association convention in Philadelphia for its 25th anniversary gathering, held in an hotel with doors large enough to let the egos in. A few Brits are present, revealed by their self-deprecation. Graham Davis is a British barrister: "Essentially it's very difficult to make yourself heard at any time of the day or night, you need to walk around with your own microphone." Patricia Frith, originally from Dorset and one of the big draws on the American conference circuit, says: "We are in business showbusiness."

Afternoon Play: Writing Home
Radio 4, 2.15pm

Manny Draycott Lai's play is inspired by diaries sent by her aunts to their mother, who narrates the play, in the 1920s. The play is broadly an exploration of alienation. The mother, a white Trinidadian, has been married to an English officer who decides to return to England to advance his career, but soon after their arrival in London the husband dies: "George always said he'd take me back, home to the motherland," the widow recalls. "You cross the world for the sake of the man you love, you leave the only place where you belong and then they leave you anyway." The mother's sadness and the joy in the postcards she receives from her daughters is very well conveyed. Jane Lapotaire is the mother.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Greening. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 9.00 Judge Jules 11.00 Westwood: Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 John Inverdale 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Des Lynam 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 9.15 Wuthering Heights (3/7) 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 David Jacobs with Easy Does It 10.30 The Arts Programme 12.00 Lynn Parsons 4.00am Jackie Bird

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News with Allan Robb 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight. Includes a look ahead to Australia v England in the second cricket Test at Perth 10.00 Late Night Live with Brian Hayes 1.00am Up All Night. Richard Dallyn presents worldwide news coverage

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Richard West

TALK RADIO

5.00am Bill Overton 6.00 The Breakfast Show 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00 Anna Raeburn 4.00 Peter Deeley's Drivetime 6.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 James Whales 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 6.30 The Way We Are 6.45 Transplantations 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: One of Ours. 7/12 7.30 Music Review 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Westway 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News; (648 only) News in German 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Waveguide 9.30 Speaking of English 9.45 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Assignment 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Focus on Faith 12.00pm News 12.05 World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Wood, Guts and Brass 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack Alternative 3.00 News; (648 only) News in German 3.05 Football Extra 3.15 To Be Continued 3.30 Science in Action 4.00 News 4.15 On Your Behalf 4.30 The New Europe; (648 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Focus On Faith; (648 only) News in German 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause For Thought 7.30 Multitrack Alternative 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 People and Politics 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The New Europe 10.45 Sports Round-Up 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack Alternative 12.00am Newsdesk 12.30 From the Weeklies 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 To Be Continued 1.45 Poems by Post 2.00 Newsday 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Round-Up 3.30 Science in Action 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Insight

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast 8.00 Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour. Plus, favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 12.00 Lunchtime Requests 2.00pm Concerto. Tartini (Cello Concerto in D major) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Includes Continuous Classics 6.30 Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Wagner (A Faust Overture); Rossini (Sonata No 1 in G for Strings); Puccini (Capriccio Sinfonico); Mozart (Piano Quartet in G minor); Verdi (The Four Seasons) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air** with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Borodin (Symphony No 3 in A minor); Handel (Oboe Concerto in G minor, HWV287)
9.00 **Masterworks** with Penny Gore. Includes Handel, orch Elgar (Overture in D minor); Biber (The Nightwatchman); Shostakovich (Suite Hamlet); Bach (Preludes and Fugues Nos 21-24 48, Book 1); Stravinsky (Jeu de cartes)
10.30 **Artist of the week: Barbara Hendricks**
11.00 **Sound Stories: Nicholas of Bari**
12.00 **Composer of the week: Josquin**
1.00pm **The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Emma Johnson, clarinet. Martin Roscoe, piano (r)
2.00 **The BBC Orchestras** BBC Philharmonic under Matthias Bamert, Yan Pascal Tortelier and Charles Mackerras, with Janos Starker, cello
4.00 **Music Restored** (r)
4.45 **Music Machine: Ondes martenot.**
5.00 **In Tune** Sean Rafferty's guests tonight include the South American pianist Clara Rodriguez
7.30 **Performance on 3** The first in a season of concerts in which the BBC Philharmonic perform Rachmaninov's three symphonies from Manchester's Bridgewater Hall. This concert was given last Saturday. Conductor Vassily Sinaisky, Dmitri Sitkovetsky, violin. Prokofiev (Russian Overture); Shostakovich (Violin Concerto No 1); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 1 in D minor)
9.20 **Postscript** Nicholas Ward Jackson explores the contemporary art world (5/5)
9.45 **Beethoven** (Six songs to poems by Gellert). Performed by Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, baritone, Hertha Klust, piano
10.00 **Hear and Now (Sounding the Century): Huddersfield 98** Includes Luis de Pablo (Segunda Lectura, first UK performance), performed by Nuove Sincronie under Renato Rivolta.
11.30 **Punk Jazz** Charles Shaar Murray tells the remarkable story of the bass player Jaco Pastorius(2/4)
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Brahms** (r)
1.00am **Through the Night** Includes 1.00 Tchaikovsky (Piano Concerto No 1 in B flat minor; Symphony No 4 in F minor) 2.20 Messiaen (Le Merle Noir); 2.45 Lindberg (Aura) 3.40 Strauss, arr anon (Suite: Der Rosenkavalier); 4.05 Wagner (Die Walkure, excerpt) 4.25 Beethoven (Violin Sonata, Op 12 No 2) 5.00 Durante (Concerto No 6 in A) 5.15 Bach (Concerto in D minor, BWV1052) 5.50 Geminiani (Concerto grosso in B minor)

RADIO 4

5.30am **World News** 5.35 **Shipping Forecast**
5.40 **Inshore Forecast** 5.45 **Prayer for the Day**
5.47 **Farming Today** Rural reports, from Anna Hill
6.00 **Today** with Sue MacGregor and John Humphrys
8.35 **(LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Update from Westminster
9.00 **Desert Island Discs** Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union (r)
9.45 **(FM) Serial: The Interesting Narrative** Colin McFarlane concludes Olaudah Equiano's account of his experiences as a slave
9.45 **(LW) An Act of Worship**
10.00 **Woman's Hour** With Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 **Strictly Conventional** Now sones. See Choice
11.30 **Girlies** (2/4) (r)
12.00 **(FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours** Liz Barclay and John Waite tackle more consumer concerns
12.00 **(LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast**
1.00 **The World at One** Presented by Nick Clarke
1.30 **Screen Test** Brian Sibley chairs the film quiz
2.00 **The Archers** (r)
2.15 **Afternoon Play: Writing Home** Jane Lapotaire stars in Manny Draycott Lai's drama about the isolation felt by a Trinidadian widow whose daughters correspond with her from around the world. With Indra Ove, Elizabeth Conboy, Tilly Gaunt and Geoffrey Whitehead. See Choice
3.00 **Making History** Roger Wilkes helps listeners research their own historical mysteries
3.30 **Up on the Manor** Sheffielders discuss the importance of the Manor Castle, a decaying ruin where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned (r)
3.45 **Feedback** Chris Dunkley airs more listeners' letters
4.00 **What Does Mr Swanzy Want?** Philip Nanton recalls the man behind the BBC World Service's Caribbean Voices series (r)
4.30 **The Message** Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 **PM** with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **True Lies** Bob Mills and Bernard Ingham join the comedy quiz, which aims to expose the hidden world of the spin doctor, finding the truth behind the headlines. Hosted by David Aaronovitch
7.00 **The Archers** Julia gets a disappointing return
7.15 **Front Row** Francine Stock presents the nightly arts review
7.45 **Still Waters** by Sergio Casci. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (r)
8.00 **Any Questions?** Daffyd Wigley MP, Baroness Shirley Williams, Lord Biffen and Rodrik Morgan MP debate issues raised by the audience in Welshpool, Powys. Jonathan Dimbleby chairs
8.45 **Letter from America** Alistair Cooke with another slice of Americana
9.00 **The Friday Play: From Salford to Jericho** Montage of interviews and poetry by Simon Armitage, tackling homelessness in Salford. With Siobhan Redmond and Alastair Galbraith (r)
10.00 **The World Tonight**
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Another World** Robert Glenister reads Pat Barker's new novel (5/10) (r)
11.00 **Late Night on 4: Late Tackle** Eleanor Oldroyd and guests discuss sports sponsorship
11.30 **(FM) Notes from the Ditch** Anne Enright encourages writers and critics to share opinions on gamesmanship in sport
11.30 **(LW) Today in Parliament** Update from Westminster
12.00 **News 12.30am The Late Book: A Man in Full** William Hoskins reads Tom Wolfe's novel exploring men's moral outlook in the 1990s
12.48 **Shipping Forecast** 1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE FM 648), LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, [illegible]san Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Nationwide League

First division
Barnsley v Huddersfield (7.45)

Third division
Halifax v Mansfield (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Runcorn v Lancaster (7.30)
LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws v Connah's Quay (7.30).
FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians v Sligo (7.45); Shelbourne v UCD (7.45)
FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Notts Forest v Leicester (1.30).

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Edinburgh Rewers v Fiji XV (at Mansfield Park, Hawick, 7.0).
CLUB MATCH: London Irish v Oxford University (2.30)
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: London and South West v South Africa under-21 XV (at London Irish, 7.0)
CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: First round, first leg: Leeds v Rotherham (7.30); Northampton v Moseley (7.30), Richmond v London Welsh (at the Athletic Ground, 7.30). Worcester v Exeter (7.30).

Answers from page 48

HODAD
(b) Surfing slang for a groupie who hangs around annoying surfers. Perhaps an alteration of "hoodlum".

MAZUMA
(a) Money or cash. American slang from the Yiddish. "A sign tacked on a tent pole informed the public that "No Credit — You must produce the mazuma. We are not in business for our health."

HEORTOLOGY
(a) The science or study of the origin, meaning, growth and history of the religious feasts and seasons of the Christian year.

MOUSSEUX
(c) Sparkling, also a sparkling wine.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 NB! forces the win of the exchange (rook for minor piece), as if 1... gxf5 2Rg3+ Ng7 3 Qf6 forces mate. Also hopeless for Black is 1... Ree8 2 Nh6+ and 3 Qf6+.

SUTTER HOME
CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY
Perfect with crispy chicken wontons and red pepper coulis.

SUTTER HOME
CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY
When you're not grabbed by the coulis.

SUTTER HOME CALIFORNIA WINES.
They don't need food to make sense.

مكذا من الأصل

Y NOVEMBER 27 1998

ESS ROUNDUP

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ST RATES

AIRWAYS

هكذا من الأصل

Budapest, bonobos and baked sea-bass

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

The title over the scratchy black and white surveillance film read: "CCCP / KGB — CAM". But who is this furtively approaching an ice-cream vendor and muttering something about "Red Oktober"? Why it's our old friend Jools Holland, funky musical virtuoso and cheeky estuary chappy. **Beat Route** (BBC2), the first of Jools Holland's new series of musical travelogues, was going to be wacky!

And some of it was. There was a split-screen effect when two rival Joolses bickered with each other while introducing the city. Later he told us about Elizabeth Bathory, the notorious 16th-century countess who killed 650 virgins and bathed in their blood hoping that it would extend her life. "It didn't, so don't try it!" he quipped. We finished off with Jools's vampire gurney and ghost-train sound-effects after the final credits.

The trouble was that he kept spouting what sounded like chunks from rather dull guidebooks. The city is a "World Heritage Site": "Heroes' Square, built in 1897, has a fluted column 118 feet tall". Jools tends to mumble somewhat, so I didn't catch the name of the man who commissioned the old bridge, based on one in Bristol Clifton suspension bridge, presumably), but he also introduced the steam train to Hungary, we learnt.

"What is it about old Buda that makes it so enchanting?" he asked, in a bid for the Judith Chalmers Comfy Travelogue Award. The answer, surprisingly, turned out to be that the streets are alive with the sound of strangled cats.

Since the dawn of recorded time, the history of Eastern Europe has been one of massacres, tyranny, suffering and privation. From Macedonia to the Baltic the peasants have expressed the pain of their souls in song, in an attempt to inflict it on everybody else.

So Jools set up his piano in a medieval square in old Buda and jammed with Michael Dresch, a tenor saxophonist and crossover-jazz-blues-Transylvanian-folk-singer. The vibe was cool, until Dresch started to sing. Then it sounded as if he was having the blood sucked slowly out of his undercarriage by a gummy vampire.

Down at the youth dance club, where they went in for vigorous ankle-slapping, the traditional musicians seemed to be torturing strays. The gypsy choir on the Danube embankment were practising holding very high notes for a very long time. Then they went even higher and squeakier. Across the city wine-glasses shattered and bats dropped from belfries with bleeding ears.

Jools's interests are refreshingly catholic, and the series provides a potentially wonderful format. Last night he laid on some real gems, amid the small furry mammal abuse, including the unaccompanied harmonies of a Serbian church choir and the pianist Zoltan Kockis. And it was very nice that he found a rare East German Wartburg sports car. Next week he's in Seville, a city famous for its barber, marmalade and Moorish-Gypsy-Flamenco-Blues-Funk, but suspiciously short of live pets.

Mind you, you can take the love of animals a bit too far. "The trouble with kissing bonobos is that they have a habit of sticking their tongue down your throat. They did French kissing long before the French did," explained Betty. Bonobos are a rare species closely related to chimpanzees, but physically and mentally even closer to ourselves, and Betty is their elderly keeper at Twycross Zoo in Warwickshire.

Molly's Zoo (BBC1) was a profile of this remarkable establishment, founded by Molly Badham, now in her eighties and still going strong. It is, we were told, one of the most respected primate zoos in the world, with more than 300 apes and monkeys in 47 different varieties.

Molly's devotion seems total. She knows all her charges by name and makes a point of trying to see each one daily, although the chimps have always been her favourites. She takes her work home with her, hand-rearing dozens over the years. Currently Tommy, a four-year-old chimp neglected by its mother, is commuting to work with her in her car.

Molly's chimps provided the cast of those frightful PG Tips commercials. Older and fatter, the cast are now in her home for retired thespians, and are still given tea, though it is served in a bucket and brewed for a full hour.

Chimps are "very polite eaters", apparently. They will often offer you a lick of their ice-cream. "I don't mind eating after a chimp," explained Molly. "I wouldn't like to after a person."

But the bonobos stole the show. They are "the Peter Pans of the ape world", Betty told us. "They live life to the full" and scream like Hungarian ballad singers. They pretend to be keepers, enjoy cleaning windows and arranging flowers.

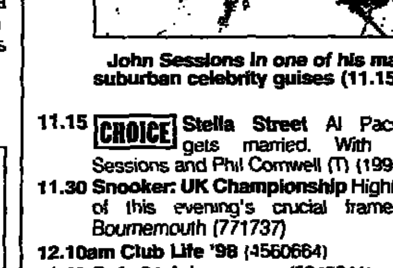
I missed *The Italian Kitchen*, but **The Italian Kitchen 2** (Channel 4) has been a revelation. Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers of the River Café send a blast of fresh Mediterranean air through the fetid world of television cookery: unpretentious, enthusiastic and crystal clear. Their lack of celebrity showmanship is matched by their obvious love of good produce and exciting recipes.

So far we have had vegetables and last night's fish programme, which included magnificent recipes for baked sea-bass and crab spaghetti. I have two minor reservations. I have no idea where to get ingredients such as cavolo nero, and Rose Gray's hope that a dormant crab will not wake up when you boil it alive seems optimistic. A microphone in the water, I fear, would pick up something very like a Transylvanian folk choir.

6.00am Business Breakfast (55244)
7.00 Breakfast News (T) (32718)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8283331)
9.40 Style Challenge (9026282)
10.05 City Hospital (T) (9160195)
10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (9920379)
11.00 Good Living with Jane Asher (9930756)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (9933843)
11.55 News; Regional News, Weather (T) (9996918)
12.00pm Pass the Buck (4561553)
12.25 Going for a Song (4540060)
12.50 The Weather Show (T) (91968832)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (T) (35605)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (73993114)
1.40 Neighbours Toadie tries to win Karen back (T) (67505331)
2.05 Ironside The chief helps a friend endure a harrowing ordeal in a remote mountain cabin (r) (9765621)
2.55 Wipeout; (r) Consuming Passions (2965114)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6621398) **3.45** Bananaman (8116640) **3.50** The All-New Popeye Show (3270282) **3.55** Dear Mr Barker (7874669) **4.10** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (9827282) **4.35** Linford's Record Breakers (7497911) **5.00** Newsround (4128621) **5.10** Blue Peter (5440718)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (918331)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (379)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (331)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer investigations, (T) (1783)
7.30 Top of the Pops The week's chart-toppers, featuring the UK's number one single (T) (843)
8.00 Shops, Robbers and Videotape (T) (9621)
8.30 In Extreme Danger Fighter pilot Tim Ellison's battle to fly again after breaking his back in a Harrier jump jet which plummeted to earth from 100ft (2/6) (T) (8756)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1718)
9.30 CHOICE Dangerfield A supergrass tires of life in protective custody and causes a disturbance which requires the attention of Dr Paige and DI Cramer. The informant's so-called "safe house" soon belies its name as a hail of bullets confirms his worst fears. Drama, starring Nigel Havers and Jane Gurnett (T) (251718)
10.20 CHOICE Jim Davidson: So Far A documentary profiling the comedian and television presenter who this year is celebrating 20 years in show business celebrating 20 years in show business (T) (951466)
11.10 The Stand-Up Show With Peter Kay (955027)
11.40 Darkman (1990) FILM Offbeat horror about a disfigured scientist bent on mayhem. Starring Liam Neeson and Frances McDormand (T) (989824)
1.05am Weather (4722848)
1.10 BBC News 24 (86815935)

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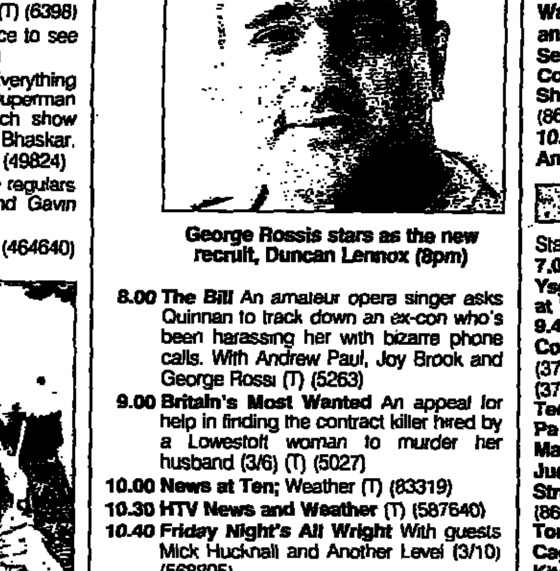
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Hairy Jeremy (5348992) **7.05** Teletubbies (2159534) **7.30** Tom and Jerry Kids (2951973) **7.55** Smart (5253263) **8.20** Robinson Sucroe (9853008) **8.45** Johnson and Friends (6568114) **8.55** Hairy Jeremy (5057485) **9.00** Daytime On Two Storytime (7158060) **9.10** See You, See Me (5543534) **9.30** Watch (8100553) **9.45** Come Outside (8105008) **10.00** Children's BBC Teletubbies (11737) **10.30** Daytime On Two Megamaths (9579350) **10.50** Look and Read (9599114) **11.10** Landmarks (9421060) **11.30** English File (3553) **12.00pm** Testament. The Bible in Animation (33814) **12.30** Working Lunch (29060) **1.00** Johnson and Friends (98823669)
1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour The renovation of a Birmingham terrace and the art of paper-making (r) (2313756)
2.10 Snooker: UK Championship Live coverage from the opening eight frames of the first semi-final at the Bournemouth International Centre (71172195)
6.00 The Simpsons Double-bill. Homer traces his half-brother and Bart becomes a model human being (r) (T) (267176)
6.45 Robot Wars Craig Charles presents motorised mayhem as radio-controlled robots vie for places in the final battle arena (T) (471008)
7.15 Electric Circus Pop idols Boyzone perform and actors Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan talk about their new film Rush Hour. Presented by Kate Sanderson (419331)
7.30 Snooker: UK Championship More from Bournemouth as the first semi-final plays to a finish (21718)
8.30 CHOICE Gardening Neighbours The Sheffield neighbours clash over plans for a community garden, while Kay at Number 3 transforms a dull shed into a postcard-style beach hut (T) (6398)
9.00 The Fast Show Another chance to see the comedy series (r) (T) (2060)
9.30 Goodness Gracious Me Mr Everything Comes From India proves that Superman was Indian in the Asian sketch show featuring the talents of Sanjeev Bhaskar, Meera Syal and Nina Wadia (T) (49824)
10.00 Have I Got News for You The regulars are joined by Linda Smith and Gavin Esler (83373)
10.30 Newsnight With Kirsty Wark (T) (464640)



John Sessions in one of his many suburban celebrity guises (11.15pm)

11.15 CHOICE Stella Street Al Pacino gets married. With John Sessions and Phil Cornwell (T) (199534)
11.30 Snooker: UK Championship Highlights of this evening's crucial frames in Bournemouth (771737)
12.10am Club Life '98 (4560664)
1.40 Cafe 21 Asian women (5049041)
2.10 Weather (6277577) **2.15** Close
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize. English — Macbeth (43022) **5.00** Close

5.30am ITN Morning News (92263)
6.00 GMTV (9630843)
9.25 Trisha (T) (4672260)
10.15 This Morning (T) (376535)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (T) (3362447)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (T) (56114)
12.59 HTV Crimestoppers (95874350)
1.00 Shortland Street (20973)
1.30 Home and Away Tiegan and Joey have a heart-to-heart (T) (55485)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (8582529)
2.40 WEST: Relative Knowledge (r) (2961398)
2.40 WALES: Animal Country (2961398)
3.10 ITN News Headlines (T) (7479282)
3.15 HTV News (T) (7478553)
3.20 CITV: Wizadora (7466718) **3.30** Archibald the Koala (7840602) **3.45** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (2057824) **4.05** Bernard's Watch (4360350) **4.20** Fun House (3285114) **4.50** Top Ten of Everything (2987447)
5.10 A Country Practice (4354824)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (824553)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (227992)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (448114)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (868398)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (517)
7.00 Bruce's Price is Right (T) (5669)
7.30 Coronation Street Des is laid to rest (T) (911)



George Rossis stars as the new recruit, Duncan Lennox (8pm)

8.00 The Bill An amateur opera singer asks Quinnan to track down an ex-con who's been harassing her with bizarre phone calls. With Andrew Paul, Joy Brook and George Rossi (T) (5263)
9.00 Britain's Most Wanted An appeal for help in finding the contract killer hired by a Lowestoft woman to murder her husband (3/6) (T) (5027)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (83319)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (587640)
10.40 Friday Night's All Wright With guests Mick Hucknall and Another Level (3/10) (568805)
11.30 The Jerry Springer Show (768263)
12.10am Soundtrax (8913867)
12.30 Pirate TV Fab discovers the delights of in-line skating (4/7) (13935)
1.00 God's Gift (T) (54303)
2.00 Club@vision Clubs in Wolverhampton and Somerset (3914664)
2.45 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (31409)
3.15 The Hijackers (1963) FILM A woman helps a haulage contractor expose a gang of crooks robbing long-distance lorries. Crime drama, starring Anthony Booth and Jacqueline Ellis (6824770)
4.25 Heirloom Patchwork quilts (78501515)
4.55 ITV Nightscreen (15544683)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (48848)

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (9609008) **1.00 Echo Point** (20973) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (9469602) **2.10 Home and Away** (T) (79540242) **2.40-3.10 Heart of the Country** (22/26) (r) (T) (2961398) **3.15-3.20 Central News** (T) (7478553) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (4354824) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (448114) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (587640) **11.30 Nash Bridges** (r) (350398) **12.35am God's Gift** (T) (1252848) **1.35 Club@vision** (7804409) **2.15 World Football** (32138) **2.45 SeaQuest DSV** (r) (1195062) **3.35 Central Jobfinder '98** (T) (660246) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (3463848)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (3362447) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (9617027) **1.00 A Step in Faith** (2/6) (r) (T) (20973) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (9469602) **2.10 Home and Away** (T) (79540242) **2.40-3.10 Westcountry Update** (T) (2961398) **3.15-3.20 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (7478553) **5.08 Birthday People** (9977621) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (4354824) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (31805) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (587640) **11.30-12.30 Party in the Park** (r) (25640)

MERIDIAN

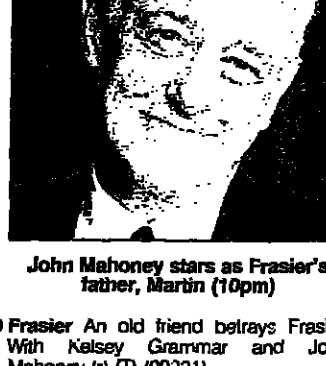
As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (3362447) **2.35-3.10 Summer Festivals** (1/4) (r) (5603621) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away;** (T) **6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (31805) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (587640) **5.00am Freescreen** (T) (48848)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (9611843) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (9609008) **1.00-1.30 Split Second** (20973) **2.35-3.10 A Splash of Colour** (3/6) (T) (5603621) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street; 6.23 Anglia Weather** (869027) **6.25-7.00 Anglia News** (T) (448114) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (738244) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (587640)

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (62107027) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (86338398) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Off Limits (44012756) **9.25 Schools at Work** (73141244) **9.30 Eureka** (65277466) **9.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (65265621) **10.00 The Complete Cosmos** (55777355) **10.10 TVM** (37642602) **10.25 Un Dau, Tri — Slapwch!** (37670485) **10.40 Top!** (27008263) **11.00 The Technology Programme** (62462447) **11.15 Pa Newydd?** (62485398) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (r) (T) (64861379) **12.00pm Judge Joe Brown** (73318440) **12.30 Sesame Street** (10956466) **1.00 Planed Plant** (86331485) **1.00 Ty Rhys** (T) (60833466) **1.15 Tomos y Tanc** (r) (T) (60821621) **1.30 FILM: Cage of Gold** (T) (59753640) **3.00 The Italian Kitchen Two** (2/6) (T) (65952602) **3.30 Collectors' Lot Special** (T) (43924485) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (43903992) **4.30 Montel Williams** (T) (43909176) **5.00 Planed Plant:** Hotel Eddie (65964447) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (43923756) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (48656176) **6.10 Heno** (T) (90874909) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (66133737) **7.25 Y Clwb Rygbi;** (T) Newyddion (74067379) **8.00 Cefn Gwlad** (T) (65953331) **8.30 Newyddion** (T) (65972466) **9.00 Pawb A'i Farn** (86434805) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (15651805) **10.35 Friends** (T) (22563282) **11.05 Eurotrash** (T) (90833992) **11.35 Harry Hill** (T) (83246263) **12.05am TFI Friday** (94523206) **1.10 FILM: Who's the Man** (55095954) **2.50 Berlin: That Single Feeling** (40775515) **3.20 FILM: The Model and the Marriage Broker** (T) (84876461) **5.10 Diwedd**

5.55am Sesame Street (3735911)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (58756)
9.00 Schools: Off Limits Talking About Race (2110331) **9.25** Schools at Work (5397485) **9.30** Eureka! (8195621) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen Music, Magic and Mystery (8190176) **10.00** The Complete Cosmos (4077089) **10.10** TVM: Number — Part Two (3756756) **10.25** Caraidean 2 (3744911) **10.40** Top! (9595398) **11.00** The Technology Programme: Design and Make It! (4895331) **11.15** Stage One. Natural Inventions (4818282)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (8621)
12.00 Sesame Street (98602)
12.30pm I Dream of Jeannie (T) (54756)
1.00 Judge Joe Brown (39401485)
1.25 The Ocean World of John Stoneman Marine life (39486176)
1.55 Sailor of the King (1953) FILM Wartime adventure, with Jeffrey Hunter as a Navy officer who risks his life in an attack on a well-armed German raider (T) (94249379)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Special Bargain items reviewed (T) (805)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (640)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7481350)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5017973)
5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow An off-colour iguana (T) (176)
6.00 TFI Friday Eddie Izzard joins Chris Evans. Music comes from Manic Street Preachers and New Order (39447)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (758398)
7.55 The Political Slot (295973)
8.00 Garden Doctors Paul Thompson transforms a Derby architect's garden (6/11) (T) (2331)
8.30 Brookside (T) (1466)
9.00 Friends As invitations go out for Ross's wedding, he and Rachel separately reminisce about the good times when they were dating (T) (7756)
9.30 Streetmate Davina McCall visits Cardiff and Cambridge (5/10) (T) (34992)



John Mahoney stars as Frasier's father, Martin (10pm)

10.00 Frasier An old friend betrays Frasier. With Kelsey Grammar and John Mahoney (r) (T) (99331)
10.30 Eurotrash Italian rollerskating diva Fanny Cadeo (T) (711060)
11.05 Harry Hill Offbeat humour (T) (949466)
11.35 TFI Friday Shown earlier (r) (T) (340911)
12.40am Who's the Man? (1993) FILM MTV DJs Ed Lover and Dr Dre make a bid for movie stardom, playing inept cops assigned to investigate an evil real estate speculator. With Ice-T (T) (839393)
2.20 Berlin — That Single Feeling Six Berliners visit singles bars (T) (1941596)
2.50 The Model and the Marriage Broker (1951) FILM The owner of a dating agency attempts to manipulate a couple into beginning a relationship. Starring Jeanne Crain and Scott Brady (295157)
4.40 Home to Roost (T) (5535246)

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines (2440008)
7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (6106485)
7.30 Milkshake! (9161517)
7.35 Wimzie's House; (r) 5 News Update (1610621)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2503263)
8.30 Dappledown Farm; 5 News Update (2502534)
9.00 Floyd Uncorked (3/8) (r) (T) (7422602)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (4285398)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7707391)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (2043027)
11.10 Leeza (r) (9058992)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2506350)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T); 5 News Update (7444718)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Brooke holds her own in jail (T) (6105756)
1.30 Sons and Daughters; 5 News Update (7443089)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5751602)
2.30 Good Afternoon (6173485)
3.30 Ivana Trump's For Love Alone (TVM 1996) FILM Glitzy drama about the increasingly strained life of a Czech skier who defects to Austria where she embarks on an ill-fated relationship with a wealthy American businessman. Sanna Vraa stars (T) (9852783)
5.20 The Roseanne Show (3643963)
6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz (5266466)
6.30 Family Affairs Jack denies involvement with Maria (T) (5257718)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (5762718)
7.30 Frostrup on Friday Mariella talks to Bill Wyman; 5 News Update (5246602)
8.00 Fort Boyard Adventure game show, with Melinda Messenger (7/12) (T) 5 News Update (9011466)
9.00 Overkill: the Aileen Wuornos Story (TVM 1992) FILM Fact-based drama charting the search for America's first female serial killer, a prostitute who murdered her clients. With Park Overall and Brion James; (T) 5 News Update (81930669)
10.50 The People Vs Jerry Sadowitz Comedy rants from the offbeat funnyman (3/8) (7182534)
11.20 Body Chemistry IV — Full Exposure (1995) FILM A sex therapist utilises her professional skills to seduce a married lawyer. With Shannon Tweed (7290114)



Michel Serrault stars in a continental comedy sequel (1.10am)

1.10am La Cage aux Folles II (1981) FILM The camp duo find themselves on the run from spies and gangsters in this sequel to the original cult comedy. Michel Serrault stars (1891664)
2.55 XXX's and OOO's (TVM 1994) FILM Romantic drama about the lives and loves of four women dreaming of stardom in Nashville (6521596)
4.35 The Road (r) (20906393)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (2565409)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (1409190)

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1
7.00am The Simpsons (76176) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (17027) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (54282) **9.00** Guilty! (26244) **10.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (84195) **11.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (64331) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (1970602) **12.55** The Special K Collection (38130621) **1.00** Days of Our Lives (9232466) **1.55** The Special K Collection (65405485) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (8828027) **2.55** The Special K Collection (4568114) **3.00** Jenny Jones (7359337) **3.55** The Special K Collection (2554992) **4.00** Guilty! (97058) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (8282) **6.00** Married — With Children (3843) **6.30** Friends (4195) **7.00** The Simpsons (9911) **7.30** The Simpsons (3909) **8.00** The Simpsons (5331) **8.30** The Simpsons (4466) **9.00** World's Scariest Police Chases 2 (51260) **10.00** Cops (66027) **10.30** Cops (42447) **11.00** Friends (47517) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (72669) **12.30am** Renegade (33935) **1.30** Long Play (4980645)

SKY BOX OFFICE
Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888 SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Speed II: Cruise Control (1997)** SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Previews GI Jane (1997)** SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **My Best Friend's Wedding (1997)** SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Alien Resurrection (1997)**

FILMFOUR
6.00pm Short Attention Span Cinema (3233843) **8.00 Walking and Talking (1996)** (3205060) **10.00 Fetishes (1997)** (7098669) **11.30 My Own Private Idaho (1991)** (3969992) **1.10am What's Eating Gilbert Grape? (1994)** (9269954) **3.05 Arizona Dream (1993)** (16006041) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER
6.00am The Underworld (1997) (62804) **8.00 Bogus (1996)** (36060) **10.00 First Kid (1996)** (83282) **12.00pm The Underworld (1997)** (59911) **2.00 Taken Away (1996)** (35669) **4.00 Bogus (1996)** (1756) **6.00 First Kid (1996)** (15805) **8.00 The Ghost and the Darkness (1996)** (10350) **10.00 Money Train (1995)** (715737) **11.50 Mistrial (1996)** (806008) **1.25am The Portrait of a Lady (1996)** (80492009) **3.50 Virtuosity (1995)** (91166374)

SKY MOVIEMAX
6.00am Ebirah, Horror of the Deep (1966) (31468) **7.30 A Fight for Justice (1996)** (82331) **9.00 Family Blessings (1996)** (58263) **11.00 Behind the Waterfall (1995)** (69534) **1.00pm Ebirah, Horror of the Deep (1966)** (69398) **3.00 A Fight for Justice (1996)** (76485) **5.00 Family Blessings (1996)** (31331) **7.00** P-Review (1379) **7.30** UK Top 10 (5447) **8.00** Femmes Fatales: Drew Barrymore (9517) **8.30** Movie Magic: The Transformer (9534) **9.00 The Associate (1996)** (28379) **11.00 Out for Justice (1991)** (202973) **12.40am Cobra (1986)** (3622461) **2.10 The Perfect Weapon (1991)** (7130393) **3.40 Suite 16 (1994)** (63387312)

SKY CINEMA
4.00pm The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962) (83187737) **6.05 The Lighthorsemen (1988)** (13115981) **8.00 The Conversation (1974)** (6034973) **10.00 To Live and Die in LA (1985)** (1373602) **11.55 Frenzy (1972)** (6758602) **1.50am Quintet (1979)** (6056041) **3.50 How to Marry a Millionaire (1953)** (16267428)

TNT
9.00pm WCW Nitro (70576244) **11.35** WCW Thunder (58270534) **1.15am Soylent Green (1973)** (90312003) **3.00 Valley of the Kings (1954)** (60288954) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1
6.30am Futures in Sport **7.00** Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** Sports Centre **8.30** Racing News **9.00** Aerobics **9.30** Futbol Mundial **10.00** Golf **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** The Rugby Club **1.30** Futbol Mundial **2.00** Athletics **3.00** Golf **5.00** Motorsport: Champion of the Future **5.30** What A Weekend **6.00** Sports Centre **7.00** World Powerboat Championships **7.30** World Sport Special **8.00** Golf **10.00** Sports Centre **11.00** Hold the Back Page **12.00am** Sports Centre **1.00** Wrestling **3.00** Golf **5.00** Sports Centre

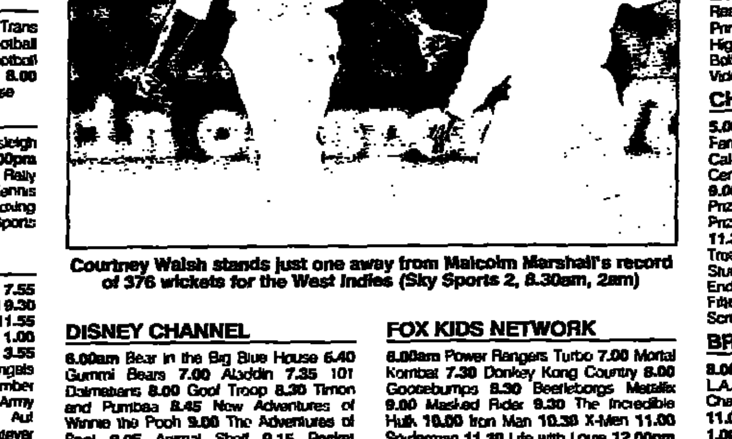
SKY SPORTS 2
6.45am Aerobics **7.15** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.00** What a Weekend **8.30** Live Cricket **3.30pm** Trans World Sport **4.30** H2O **5.00** Powerboat Championships **5.30** World Sport Special **6.00** Wild Sports **6.30** H2O **7.00** Live Football **10.00** Athletics **11.00** Wild Sports **11.30** H2O **12.00am** Motorsport **12.30** Rebel TV **1.00** Hold the Back Page **2.00** Live Cricket

SKY SPORTS 3
11.30am Futures in Sport **12.00pm** Trans World Sport **1.00** Tight Lines **2.00** Football Scrapbook **3.30** American College Football **5.30** Rebel TV **6.00** Motorcycling **8.00** Cricket **10.00** Wrestling **12.00am** Close

EUROSPORT
7.30am Snowboarding **8.00** Bobsleigh **9.00** Alpine Skiing **10.00** Football **12.00pm** Motorsports **1.00** Live Tennis **4.30** Rally **5.00** Live Alpine Skiing **6.00** Live Tennis **8.30** Women's Alpine Skiing **9.30** Boxing **10.00** Live Bobsleigh **11.00** Extreme Sports **11.30** Live Bobsleigh **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD
7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** Bergerac **10.30** Angels **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** Bergerac **4.55** EastEnders **5.30** Angels **6.00** Due South **7.00** May to December **7.40** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **9.40** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet **10.45** Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? **11.25** The Bill **11.55** The Bill **12.25am** Doctor Who Omnibus **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS
6.00am The Box **7.00** Doctor in the House **7.30** The Fenn Street Gang **8.00** Surgical Spirit **8.30** A Fine Romance **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Piglet Files **1.30** Watching **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** Sherlock Holmes **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hawaii Five O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission Impossible **8.00** The Professionals **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Sez Les **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Men and Motors



Courtney Walsh stands just one away from Malcolm Marshall's record of 376 wickets for the West Indies (Sky Sports 2, 8.30am, 2am)

DISNEY CHANNEL
6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.40** Gummi Bears **7.00** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bee Size **10.15** Tots TV **10.30** Let's Wiggle **10.35** Big Garage **10.50** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bee Size **1.15** Tots TV **1.30** Let's Wiggle **1.35** Big Garage **1.50** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** Little Mermaid **3.30** Timon and Pumbaa **3.45** Aladdin **4.10** 101 Dalmatians **4.40** Art Attack **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Microsoap **5.45** Recess **6.00** Wonder Years **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Pepper Ann **7.15** Brotherly Love **7.45** Microsoap **8.00 FILM: Garbage Picking (1996)** **9.30** Microsoap **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK
6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **9.00** Masked Rider **9.30** The Incredible Hulk **10.00** Iron Man **10.30** X-Men **11.00** Spiderman **11.30** Life with Louie **12.00pm** Ace Ventura **12.30** Casper **12.45** Toonsylvania **1.00** Sam and Max **1.15** Home to Rent **1.30** The Incredible Hulk **2.00** Iron Man **2.30** X-Men **3.00** Spiderman **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Bureau of Alien Detectors **5.00** Goosebumps **5.30** Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Mowgli **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON
6.00am Fraggle Rock **6.30** Muppet Babies **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Arthur **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Rocky and the Dodos etc **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Angry Beavers **4.00** Catdog **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE
7.00am California Dreams **7.30** Hang Time **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** USA High **9.00** Heartbreak High **10.00** Sweat **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** USA High **12.00pm** Ready or Not **12.30** Sweat **1.00** Heartbreak High **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** California Dreams **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** USA High **4.00** Fresh Prince **4.30** In the House **5.00** Sweet Valley High **5.30** Hang Time **6.00** Saved by the Bell: New Class **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** In the House **7.30** Fresh Prince

CHALLENGE TV
5.00pm Crosswits **5.30** Prize Time **5.45** Family Fortunes **6.15** Prize Time **6.30** Catchphrase **7.00** Prize Time **7.15** 100 Per Cent **7.45** Prize Time **7.55** Crystal Maze **9.00** Prize Time **9.15** Strike it Lucky **9.45** Prize Time **10.00** Endurance UK **10.30** Prize Time **10.45** Cooler **11.15** Prize Time **11.30** Carnal Knowledge **12.30am** Treasure Hunt **1.30** Second Guess **2.00** Studs **2.30** Family Fortunes **3.00** Endurance UK **3.30** Blockbusters **4.00** Fifteen-to-One **4.30** Give Us a Clue **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO
8.00pm The Extremists **8.30** Bushido **9.00** L.A.P.D. **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Scary Sex **11.00 FILM: Deadly Weapons (1974)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35 FILM: Nerds of a Feather (1990)** **3.30** Taxicab Confessions **4.00** Sex Bytes **4.30** Italian Stripping Housewives **5.00** Freaky Stories **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY
7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Desmond's **8.00** Roseanne **8.30** Just Shoot Me **9.00** Ellen **9.30** Seinfeld **10.00** Jack Dee Live at the London Palladium **11.15** Lancelot Link Secret Chimp **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Sledgehammer **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Girls on Top **3.30** Nightstand **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY
7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Invisible Man **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** Amazing Stories **4.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **5.00** Sightings **6.00** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **6.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** Amazing Stories **8.30** Highlander: The Raven **9.30** The Hunger **10.00 FILM: Xtro III: Watch the Skies (1995)** **12.00am FILM: The Wind of Amnesia (1993)** **1.35** Sci-Focus on Starship Troopers **2.00** Tenchi Muyo **2.30** Tales of the Unexpected **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE
6.00am The Joy of Painting **6.30** Gardeners' Diary **7.00** Garden Doctors **7.30** Our House **8.00** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **8.30** Furniture on the Mend **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Gardeners' Diary **10.00** Garden Doctors **10.30** Our House **11.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures **11.30** Furniture on the Mend **12.00pm** Home Again with Bob Vila **12.30** The House **1.00** Cookabout With Greg and Max **1.30** In the Workshop **2.00** The Log Cabin **2.30** The Dicemen **3.00** Two's Country **3.30** These Four Walls II

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing World **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** First Flights **5.30** Ancient Warriors **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Wild Discovery: Ocean Wilds **7.00** Wild Discovery: Ocean Wilds **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.00** The Mosquito Story **9.00** Crocodile Hunter **10.00** Real Lives: The Fugitive **11.00** Weapons of War: Scorched Earth **12.00am** Real Lives: Underwater Cops **1.00** First Flights **1.30** Ancient Warriors **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET
12.00pm Wild Sanctuaries **12.30** Blue Reef Adventures **1.00** Animal Doctor **1.30** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **2.00** Wildlife Rescue **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Zoo Story **4.00** Jack Hanna's Adventures **4.30** Wildlife SOS **5.00** Harry's Practice **5.30** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **6.00** Kratt's Creatures **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Animal Planet Classics **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Wild at Heart **9.00** Wildlife Days **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** ESPU **10.30** Natures Babies **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
7.00pm Vietnam's Great Ape **7.30** Nuisance Alligators **8.00** Kon Tiki: In the Light of Time **9.00** Wild Dog Dingo **10.00** The Humped Elephants of Nepal **11.00** Wild Horses of Namib **11.30** Black Widow **12.00am** Legends of the Bushmen

HISTORY
4.00pm War Inside Story **5.00** Modern Marvels **6.00** Ancient Mysteries **7.00** Brute Force: The Grunts of Vietnam **7.30** Haunted History: The Battle of Verdun

CARLTON FOOD (CABLE)
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** First Taste **10.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Newman Meets **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** An Umbrian Kitchen **2.00** Home Shopping **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** For Better, For Worse **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Antony's Morocco **4.30** Chef for a Day **5.00** Close

LIVING
6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** The Roseanne Show **9.50** The Jerry Springer Show **10.40** Michael Cole **11.30** The Heat is On **12.00pm** Living Issues **12.30** Rescue 911 **1.00** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.30** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.05** Rolonda **2.55** Living it Up! **3.35** The Jerry Springer Show **4.45** Tempestt **5.35** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.10** The Jerry Springer Show **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **8.00** Ally McBeal **9.00** Liz: The Elizabeth Taylor Story **11.00** The Sex Files **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV
5.30am Sa Re Ga Ma **6.00** Euro Zindagi **6.30** Zee Health Show **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** News **8.00** Aap ki Adalat **8.30** Margarita **9.00** Adhikar **10.00** Pathar **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Hindi Movie: Chowkidaar** **3.00** Kaachi Dhoop **3.30** Filmy Baatein **4.00** Campus **4.30** Zee Zone **5.30** Amanat **6.00** Antakshari **6.30** Zee and You: Showcase **7.00** Chashme Baddoor **7.30** Entertainment Express **8.00** News **8.30** Aashirwad **9.00 FILM: Hindi Movie: Tevell** **12.00am** News **12.30** Ru Ba Ru **1.00** Mysteries **2.00 FILM: Hindi Film: Saboot Mangta Hai Kanoon**



FOOTBALL 52

Manchester United look to task remaining after dazzling in Spain

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 53

Paterson under fire from former greats of Scotland game



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27 1998

England wait for Thorpe as doubts resurface

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PERTH

RAPPING the Test pitch here with bare knuckles yesterday brought a sound like a knock on a concrete wall. It was audible evidence that Perth is ready to reclaim its reputation as a venue apart and stage a Test match played at dizzying pace, with no concessions for the faint-hearted.

The locals are rubbing their hands over a rock-hard surface bearing none of the cracks that, two years ago, opened into craters during a Test match against West Indies. This one, they say, will be simply quick, bouncy and intimidating. Whether this will suit England is debatable, but last night, as the selectors considered their options for the game that starts here tomorrow, another back complaint distracted them. This time it was Graham Thorpe, whose spinal disorder had recurred, and with England planning to employ all seven of their specialist batsmen, it could not have been more inconvenient.

The consequence was a delay in naming a squad, which was not so troublesome if it secured England even the minor gain of keeping the opposition guessing. Australia have played their hand already and Jason Gillespie, their quickest bowler, will return to a four-man attack that includes Colin Miller, the bleached-blond Tasmanian.

In 1991, Graham Gooch's team was beaten by nine wickets, the signal for a cutting speech by Gooch about the shortcomings of the English game. Four years later, after a thrashing by 329 runs, Michael Atherton emerged with a pageful of notes, equally damning. Alec Stewart is unlikely to be driven to such an outpouring if England lose this time, largely because the series is still in its infancy, but also because he is not that kind of man. In his unfailingly polite statements, Stewart, if anything, is becoming blander by the week.

England, he said, would pick "the best team available to beat Australia in these conditions". They would talk, again, about what they did right and wrong in Brisbane. "I will state the obvious, as I always do," he added, with more than a hint of self-parody.

To be fair — as Stewart is also fond of saying — the England captain is wise to refrain from any drum-banging ripostes to local disdain for his team. He will sense that they have a chance in this series if they can survive this next obstacle, but he will also suspect that it may prove the most daunting of their winter.

The concern over Thorpe, initially, was played down. For a man approaching 3,500 Test runs and boasting a formidable record against Australia, Thorpe is one of those sportsmen who seldom seems at the peak of health and he has suffered various minor ailments on this tour.



Miller: keen to exploit pitch



Headley: hoping for recall

That said, it was a well-documented risk to bring both him and Atherton here with ongoing back problems, when all seven batsmen were likely to be chosen for either or both of the first two Tests. If Thorpe, who made 123 in the corresponding Test on the previous tour, does not recover, England would have little option but to include Graeme Hick, who was summoned to cover for Atherton in Brisbane.

Stewart did not think this would be necessary. "Thorpe is only a little stiff and it's more a result of spending seven hours on a plane," he said. "I am convinced he will play, but we have to leave our selection until tomorrow."

Having been set against the seven-batsmen policy in Brisbane and winning the point, Stewart is more conciliatory this time. "Australia speak of picking horses for courses and we will do the same," he said. "It is definitely an option here and it would obviously mean that we would go in without a spin bowler."

The omission of Robert Croft, who bowled serviceably in Brisbane, would cause none of the angst that has followed Australia's decision to leave out Stuart MacGill. In a short time as a Test player, he has proven himself an influential wicket-taker; Croft cannot be considered as such.

England's trickiest decision concerned the make-up of their seam attack. The likeliest outcome was a recall for Dean Headley at the expense of Angus Fraser, for whom Perth is anything but an ideal pitch. The theory that Dominic Cork might be at risk from the uncapped and — to Australians — unknown Alex Tudor seemed just too ambitious.

Two bowlers were automatic selections: Alan Mullally, who had his best match for England in Brisbane, and Darren Gough, who had one of his most chastening. Stewart had words of comfort for Gough, calling him "the quickest bowler in the series", and predicting that his returns would soon reflect it.

Chanderpaul to rescue.....50
Kent in turmoil.....50

Gillespie might dispute Stewart's assessment, as might Glenn McGrath. The Australia strike bowler, with seven wickets to his name already, spoke with menacing confidence yesterday. Of his overblown duel with Atherton McGrath said: "It gives people something to talk about. Last year it was Warne against Cullinan, here it's me and Athers." But Atherton's advertised intention to continue hooking him brought a smile. "I'm happy that he was having a go at it . . . I'd prefer that to guys who get out of the way," he said.

Australia "took a lot out of the Brisbane game and we have the ascendancy at the moment," McGrath said. "They tell me that this will be back to the old-style Waca wicket that we haven't seen for a few years. I don't think I've ever played on it when it's been really quick and bouncy. I'm looking forward to finding out."

ENGLAND (from): A Stewart (captain), M Atherton, M Butcher, N Hussain, G Thorpe, M Ramprakash, J Crawley, G Hick, D Cork, D Gough, A Fraser, D Headley, A Tudor, A Mullally.

AUSTRALIA (from): M Taylor (captain), M Slater, J Langer, M Waugh, S Waugh, R Ponting, I Healy, D Fleming, J Gillespie, M Kasprowicz, C Miller, G McGrath.

Umpires: D Harper (Aus) and S Venkataraghavan (India)

Henman and Rusedski meet

Best of British ready to go head to head

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN HANOVER

TIM HENMAN raised expectations to fever pitch yesterday with a patiently crafted victory over Alex Corretja to reach the last four of the ATP Tour finals. With Greg Rusedski later dismissing Albert Costa, an eleventh-hour replacement for Marcelo Rios, it was a momentous day for British tennis.

The stage, thus, is set for the Britons to lock horns today, although the stakes are not as high as they might appear. The knowledge that Henman has already qualified at the top of the injury-torn white group may mildly dilute his desire. Rusedski has the greater incentive, even if victory may not be enough for him to join Henman in the semi-finals. Henman's 7-6, 6-7, 6-2 triumph once again amplified the gains that he has made since he reached the Wimbledon semi-finals. Corretja, world-ranked No 6, has become a feisty indoor competitor. This was evidenced by his tournament victory in Lyon six weeks ago, the first indoors by a Spaniard in 22 years.

Corretja had also beaten a lacklustre Henman on their only previous encounter, in Paris 13 months ago. His baseline accuracy and tenacity make a formidable combination, as Henman discovered in a tense opening set with no break points offered by either. The tie-break was equally close, Henman's aggression forcing Corretja into a rushed backhand pass that drifted wide of the sideline.

Throughout that set, Henman confronted the ultimate dilemma in attempting to break the Spaniard. He could not win from the baseline, yet Corretja's passes were so laced with venom that Henman might easily have abandoned his forcing tactics. Instead, he increased the bombardment, attacking Corretja at every turn, pressing his opponent into errors.

Set two was a different affair as the intensity reduced both players to basic errors. Henman appeared to suffer more. He wasted a promising position when Costa trailed 6-5 and 30-0, surrendering the advantage with some poor returning. Indeed, when Corretja rifled another backhand pass down Henman's line at set point in the tie-break, he looked the more likely winner.

Yet Henman has learnt how to regroup, which he did at the start of the third set. "I had to be stubborn," he said. "I had to believe in my tactics." He set about the Spaniard with renewed vigour, seizing four games in succession to establish a winning platform. With Henman maintaining excellent concentration, there could be no redemption for the toiling Corretja.

Rusedski, for his part, only learnt of Rios's defection minutes before Henman completed his victory. The trouble was that, unlike Rios, Costa plays right-handed. That required some significant last-minute adjustments from the Briton, who said after his 7-6, 6-1 triumph: "It was quite difficult. I needed a totally different game-plan and was a little tight out there for a while."

That doubtless accounted for Rusedski needing ten opportunities before he captured the opening set in a tie-break. He found his range after that, running away with the contest to establish an outside chance at a semi-final place.

Even if Rusedski triumphs over Henman today, he would still be reliant on the outcome of the match between Corretja and Costa tonight. The Spaniards are friends. More relevantly, Costa, world-ranked No 14, has never won an indoor match.

Costa's defeat by Rusedski marked his sixteenth consecutive reverse. A seventeenth at Corretja's hands would see the latter safely through. The fact that Costa is involved in matches of such significance exposes the soft underbelly of this event.

Under the convoluted rules involving reserves, what counts against Rusedski is the fact that he will have played one match fewer than Corretja, who qualified by right. As Rusedski conceded, the ATP Tour's desire to inhibit the passage of an alternate is understandable.

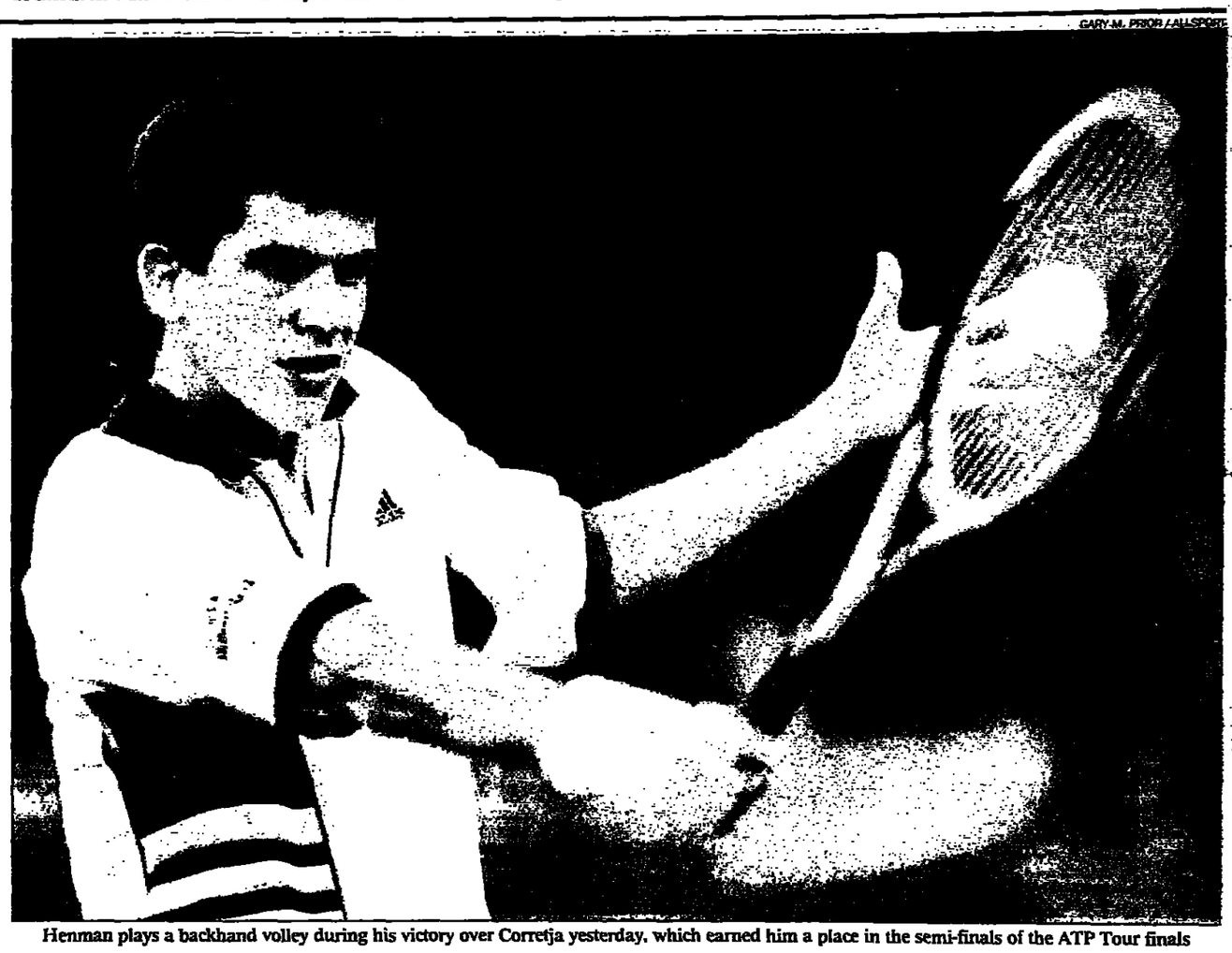
True to form, Rios pulled out without warning yesterday. An MRI scan on Wednesday revealed no structural damage to his back, which prompted the Chilean to speak emphatically about playing less than 24 hours before making way for Costa.

Rios's withdrawal, following that of Andre Agassi late on Wednesday night, ensured that Pete Sampras would end 1998 world-ranked No 1 for a record-breaking sixth successive year, eclipsing the mark that he shared with Jimmy Connors.

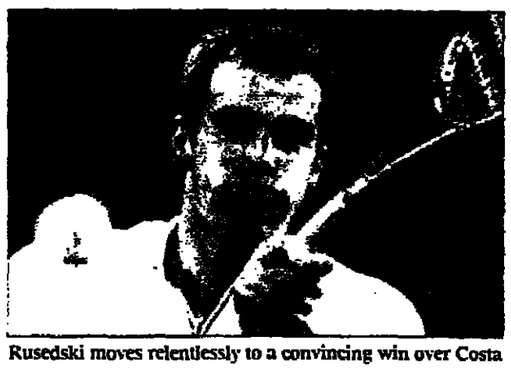
Sampras celebrated the occasion before a raucous full house last night when he mauled Karol Kucera 6-2, 6-1 in 46 minutes.

TODAY: C Moya (Sp) v Y Kafelnikov (Russ); T Henman (GB) v G Rusedski (GB); A Corretja (Sp) v A Costa (Sp). Television: Eurosport (from 1pm)

GARY M. PRIOR / ALLSPORT

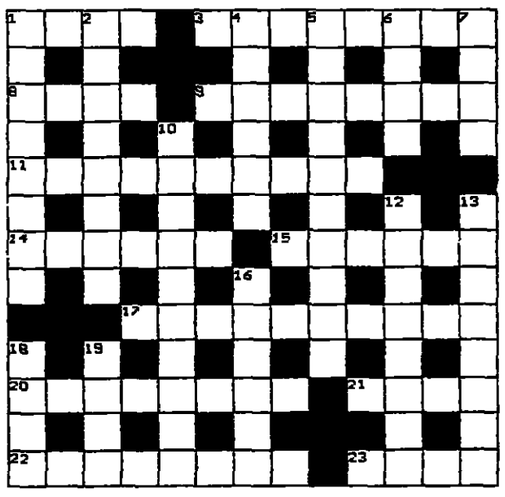


Henman plays a backhand volley during his victory over Corretja yesterday, which earned him a place in the semi-finals of the ATP Tour finals



Rusedski moves relentlessly to a convincing win over Costa

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1574

ACROSS
1 Conceal: skin (4)
3 Typical example (8)
8 Lateral part (4)
9 Rules expressed in symbols (maths.) (8)
11 Trickery: conjuror's incantation (5-5)
14 Courage: ghost (6)
15 Give satisfaction to (6)
17 Sea-plane (6,4)
20 Put a name to (8)
21 Reasonable: light-coloured (4)
22 (Inscription) on stone (8)
23 Head growth (4)

DOWN
1 Not to be talked about (4-4)
2 Imparting a lesson (8)
4 Particle of light (6)
5 Protective colouring, concealment (10)
6 A grinder (4)
7 Scots. turnip (4)
10 Swung from side to side (10)
12 Wide view (8)
13 Univ. teacher (8)
16 Not be the same (6)
18 Satiate: wholly occupy (4)
19 (Liquid) trickle thinly (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1573
ACROSS: 1 Victoria Falls 8 Round up 9 Comet 10 Cob 11 Cagliari 13 Treaty 14 Fitful 17 Spillage 19 Raw 21 Among 22 Outrage 24 Argued the toss
DOWN: 1 Voracity 2 Crumble 3 Odd 4 Impugn 5 Facsimile 6 Lemur 7 Sett 11 Catalogue 12 Flawless 15 Farrago 16 Cavort 18 Prong 20 Gala 23 Tie

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Everton in wilderness

By Phil Yates

CLIVE EVERTON, the BBC snooker commentator, has become well acquainted with his Bournemouth hotel room this week. When he is not commentating on the United Kingdom Championship at the International Centre, he is banished from the arena and its environs, including the restaurant and swimming pool.

Everton's options have been limited by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), which took the decision last month to bar him indefinitely from all of its tournament venues.

At 61, Everton is widely recognised as the game's foremost evangelist. In the early Seventies, before the explosion in snooker's popularity, he ploughed a lone journalistic furrow but, because of his criticism of successive administrations, he has come to be regarded as something of an anti-establishment figure.

Like a number of the leading players, including Stephen Hendry and Steve Davis, Everton has become increasingly disenchanted with the WPBSA board of directors. Never a shrinking violet, he has been heavily critical of what he perceives to be its inadequacy in running the game. These charges — including organisational deficiencies and a failure to attract new sponsors — have been particularly aimed at Rex Williams, the chairman.

Earlier this year, the WPBSA even resorted to stripping Everton, an enthusiastic billiards player, of his honorary membership, without trial or charge. BBC Radio 5 Live, one of the many media outlets for whom Everton works, has protested his ban by refusing to take their customary hourly reports on the event.

The WPBSA stated: "No interviews or comments will be made by the Association regarding any political matters in our sport while the championship is taking place."

Harold in a hurry, page 51

TOMORROW



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